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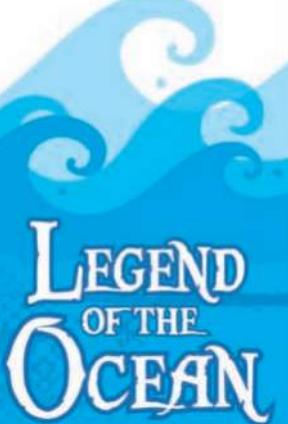
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Man allegedly raped woman who asked for betel nut. **PAGE 5**
Police arrest driver of fatal van crash. **PAGE 5**

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Mondala faces corruption charges

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Office on Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala was arrested and taken to Superior Court on Friday, after the Office of the Public Auditor charged her with using the office's funds and materials for the needs of the Covenant Party during the 2009 elections and to build a fence at her house in Kagman.

See MONDALA on Page 4

Escorted by a Superior Court marshal, former Office on Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala emerges from the courtroom of Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday morning from her initial court appearance. Mondala, 68, was arrested after the Office of the Public Auditor filed corruption charges against her.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



- » Office on Aging funds and materials used to build defendant's house fence
- » 6 cases of hotdog, 126 bags of buns allegedly delivered to Covenant Party headquarters
- » Office on Aging purchased from Ogumoro in one day 775 lbs of fresh fish worth \$3,636
- » \$5,473 worth of vegetables; vegetables rotted due to excess supply

ART IN THE PARK

Community members check out arts, crafts, and refreshments at the Art in the Park event on the grounds of the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan on Saturday. The one-day showcase was sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, in partnership with the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



**WITH CASINO STILL
UP IN THE AIR**
Focus may shift
to video lottery
and e-gaming

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With the future of a Saipan casino hanging in the balance over lawsuits and a host of concerns, Gov. Eloy S. Inos hinted at refocusing on two other major revenue-generating industries allowed by law: electronic gaming and video lottery. And while much focus was devoted to e-gaming and casino the past months, investor groups from Canada and Taiwan are ready to come in and operate video

See FOCUS on Page 2

'Employers should start processing workers' papers now'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Employers in the CNMI who want to retain their non-resident workers should start processing their papers now, according to Professor Rose Cuisin-Villazor during Friday's Law in the Community



Cuisin-Villazor

lecture series at the American Memorial park auditorium.

Cuisin-Villazor said that petitioning long-term guest workers is an option available now under federal immigration law so employers don't have to wait for the bipartisan bill S.744—the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and

Immigration Modernization Act that the U.S. Senate has passed.

S.744 includes a provision that would enable long-term guest workers in the CNMI to adjust their status to CNMI-only resident status and, after five years of passage of the law, enable them to apply for a U.S. immigration visa or adjust their status to lawful permanent resident.

See EMPLOYERS on Page 2



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Local

AAFES troop store expansion completion pushed to 2015

The completion of a planned expansion of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service troop store in Puerto Rico has been pushed back to 2015 instead of the original target of 2013 because of the possibility of unexploded ordnance at the site, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said.

The current AAFES store is only 1,120 square feet and was built in 1987. Sablan said the expansion covers 5,000 square

feet. Officials earlier said that the expansion project could cost \$2.44 million.

Sablan requested study of the AAFES store expansion in 2011 and completion was originally planned for 2013, "but the possi-

bility of unexploded ordnance at the site has caused delay," he said.

The existing store, which serves some 4,000 active and reserve service members, retirees and their families, is small, deteriorating, and in need of a major overhaul.

Sablan said in early 2013, however, the U.S. Navy, which

controls the property, required that an Explosive Safety Survey be completed before construction can begin.

He said the Army's 9th Mission Support Command recently transferred the necessary funds for the survey to the Navy and the go-ahead on the project is expected by the end of July.

"Clearance of any ordnance could then occur in September and October, and construction could begin in November. The store expansion is expected to take 12 months to complete. Grand opening is scheduled for December 2015," Sablan added. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

FOCUS

From Page 1

lottery terminals, he said.

Moreover, while the governor has expressed openness to putting the casino question on the ballot, he said this could further delay the restoration of retirees' deferred 25 percent pension and payment of contribution interest for former defined benefit plan members, among other relief.

Inos is also hoping that candidates won't use the casino issue for their political campaign.

"The problem is, they're thinking I'm using it for political [purposes]..." he said. Inos said others just want to derail the casino project and are "politically motivated."

Inos said it's unfortunate that the Saipan casino is under litigation. However, he said his administration respects the judicial process.

"But that should not deter us from continuing to look for ways to generate more revenue. If it means bringing casino before the people, so be it. The thing is, the more we delay, the greater the burden will be," he said, referring to, among other things, restoring pension cut.

He reiterated that in his view, Saipan casino is not a question of "when" but "if."

Because of ongoing court litigation, the Lottery Commission is stopped from deciding whether to reject or approve a license for the exclusive development of a minimum \$2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. and Best Sunshine International Ltd. are vying for the exclusive license.

Inos said he's glad that the first electronic gaming facility on Saipan—Club C at Kanoa Resort—opened smoothly last week. Portions of government

revenue from e-gaming will also go to pension cut restoration, although Inos said this is not enough to cover the entire obligation.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), author of the electronic gaming bill that became law in December 2013, said besides Marianas Resort & Spa in Marpi, at least three other hotels are considering setting up e-gaming in their facilities.

"There's at least three others but nothing is final yet—Fiesta Resort, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and Hafadai Beach Hotel. There may be more," Sablan said on Capital Hill.

Sablan, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he is also pleased to learn that the first electronic gaming facility on Saipan is being "patronized by tourists as we had envisioned."

Every single day that the electronic gaming facility runs,

there is government revenues earned to be used for public services and obligations, including restoration of retirees' deferred pension, he added.

Sablan said that the governor's proposed fiscal year 2015 budget reflects \$2.5 million in anticipated revenue from electronic gaming but Inos is also expected to report revenue from electronic gaming facilities in fiscal year 2014.

The governor separately acknowledged this.

If there's more than \$200,000 in surplus at the end of the fiscal year, the governor will have to report that to the Legislature. Sablan said that money would have to go toward addressing outstanding government obligations.

"I'm more comfortable paying something specific, not just say 'deficit reduction,'" he added.

Sablan cited, for example, the CNMI's outstanding obligations to the Guam Memorial Hospi-

tal. Because of past debts, the CNMI is unable to send more patients to GMH and instead send patients to farther places such as Hawaii and Manila.

Video lottery investors

The governor conceded that the government was "distracted" with other matters, including Saipan casino and electronic gaming, that video lottery was placed in the back burner.

He said the government has received a proposal from a Canadian firm, while a firm from Taiwan has also expressed interest in coming in for VLTs.

One of the investors is looking at operating some 500 machines, Inos said.

"They have already expressed interest. They submitted proposals," Inos said in an interview during his signing of a proclamation declaring July as 2014 Youth Leadership Month.

When asked whatever hap-

pened to the submitted VLT proposals, Inos said, "They have been held in abeyance because we just have not been able to get to it as yet because of the e-gaming situation..."

The government is now taking a closer look at the VLT proposals.

The preferred site, he said, is the airport but the airport's main concessionaire and the Commonwealth Ports Authority have to approve any such proposal, too.

The governor signed the video lottery law in October 2013, two months before electronic gaming became law, and five months after the Saipan casino law's enactment.

Under Public Law 18-20, video lottery terminals are strictly limited to golf resorts, hotels that have at least 100 rooms, or at any airport departure area that is accessible to departing passengers only.

EMPLOYERS

From Page 1

mer Pre-law Program.

Cuison-Villazor said that a number of immigration reform bills have been voted on in the Judiciary and Home Security committees in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Presumably, she said, one or a combination of these bills could be part of a broader comprehensive immigration reform bill in the House.

However, Cuison-Villazor doubts that comprehensive immigration reform will be passed right now as there's

just too much political inaction, which is why state and local governments have been trying to fill the gap.

In an interview after the lecture, Cuison-Villazor said in her opinion there are a lot of barriers for immigration reform to pass right now.

"I want to be clear about this. It does not mean it's not going to pass. It just means that as of right now it's really going to be very difficult," she said.

She said advocates for comprehensive immigration re-

form should continue to urge Congress to pass it and support the people who are trying to get it passed.

Cuison-Villazor does not know what advice to give guest workers who are hoping for the comprehensive immigration reform bill to pass because their status is all tied up with Congress.

"That's what it is. Congress will decide that issue for them. There is not one person, not President Obama, not the CNMI Legislature," she said.

The professor said the issue of guest workers' improved immigration status in the CNMI is part of federal immigration comprehensive reform.

"So until that passage, we just have the law here that says you can work here so long as you have an employer who can petition for you," she said.

Cuison-Villazor said if guest workers are related to someone who is a citizen or a permanent resident, then they should file the petition already.

"There are people who don't

because they think it is expensive. You know what, come up with the money and do it. Get a lawyer and do it because how else can you stay," she added.

The professor also discussed in her lecture the Article 12 referendum. In November 2014, the CNMI ballot will include an initiative that would allow voters to decide whether to amend Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution.

The auditorium was packed with mostly lawyers and some long-term guest workers.

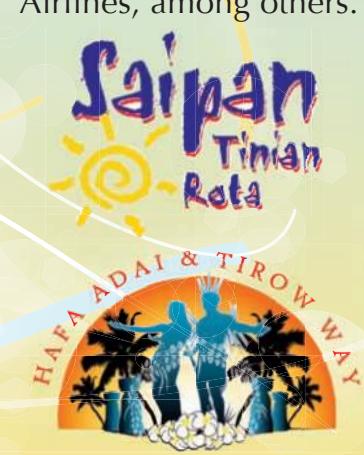
The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) joined a number of other U.S. tourism bureaus at the **Deeply Discover America (Fukabori) Seminar** on May 22-23, 2014, in Nagoya and Osaka.

The seminar was organized by the Japan Association of Travel Agents and Brand USA on May 22-23, 2014. The MVA provided a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation on the attractions in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The seminar drew 42 travel trade representatives



in Nagoya and 70 attendees in Osaka.

Other participants included Orlando, California, Guam, San Diego, San Francisco, New York, Hawaii, Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, and United Airlines, among others.





Tourism Topics
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
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Wiseman denies Best Sunshine's request to intervene

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied casino license applicant Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s request to allow it to intervene in the lawsuit filed by another casino applicant, Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc., against the CNMI government.

In the same order on Friday, Wiseman also denied Best Sunshine's emergency motion to dissolve or modify the court's temporary restraining order against the casino process.

Wiseman ruled that as Best Sunshine is not a party to the lawsuit at this point, its emergency motion to dissolve or modify the TRO is procedurally improper.

In denying Best Sunshine's motion to intervene, the judge said he does not find good cause to bypass a critical procedural aspect of the case to address the immediate concerns of Best Sunshine, which is not a party to the case.

Wiseman, however, stated

that he will address Best Sunshine's motion to intervene after the preliminary injunction hearing tomorrow, July 1.

Best Sunshine, through counsel Michael Dotts, asked the court to allow it to intervene in the lawsuit and asked to dissolve or modify the TRO that stops Gov. Eloy S. Inos, the CNMI government, the Commonwealth Lottery Commission, and the Finance secretary from either denying or approving a casino license.

Dotts said that Best Sunshine International should be allowed into this lawsuit to defend the law that will make it possible for Best Sunshine to obtain a casino license.

Dotts said the TRO should either be immediately dissolved or modified so that only disbursement of the \$30 million deposited by Marianas Stars Entertainment will be enjoined if the company is issued the license.

Wiseman issued the TRO on June 19 after Marianas Stars Entertainment filed on that same day the lawsuit and requested a TRO. Marianas Stars,

through counsel Sean Frink, asserted that the company will be irreparably harmed if the TRO is not issued pending the resolution of its case.

Frink said a casino license cannot be issued without the participation of the Casino Commission, which does not exist yet because no commissioners have been approved to serve.

In his order on Friday, Wiseman said he does not find that Best Sunshine would suffer

any injury if the court allows the TRO to stand and maintains the July 1 hearing for various reasons set forth in Best Sunshine's motions and Marianas Stars' opposition.

Wiseman said he will allow Best Sunshine's lawyer to appear at the July 1 hearing and argue at that time why it should be allowed to intervene in the case.

Wiseman said he expects Best Sunshine to file a memorandum detailing both the applicable law and respective

arguments as to the necessary factors to be considered in a motion to intervene.

The judge said he recognizes that June 30, 2014, is 90 days after Public Law 18-43

was signed into law. However, he said he does not find at this time that the Lottery Commission would be absolutely prohibited from issuing a license after that date.

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Lack of funds deters conduct of CUC infrastructure study

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has no money to do an electric distribution infrastructure study—a project that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's hearing examiner has recommended.

"The commission should not implement an order for CUC to do a rate study at this time. CUC testified that there is no grant money to do the study and that it does not have funds available for the rate study. The funding issue is central to this discussion, especially as CUC has not been awarded the amount of rate revenue which the commission has already found to be just and reasonable," according to CUC's response submitted last week to the commission.

In his June 13 report to CPUC, hearing examiner Harry Boertzel had recommended that CUC should be ordered and directed to comply with the development of an electric distribution infrastructure study.

But according to CUC, the agency does not have a reserve account or other credit to pay for such a study. Requiring CUC to perform a task it does not have available funds to pay for will only set CUC up for failure, according to its report.

CUC also warned of a new rate hike case if the agency is

forced to do the study.

"In the alternative, it will also mean that the commission will have to consider a petition for a rate increase to fund this study. CUC should be required to comply with ordering provision only after it is able to obtain funding to perform this function," it added.

In the same document turned in last week to CPUC, the utilities agency also clarified some information and issues raised by the CPUC hearing examiner's June 13 report.

Among these is the Incentive Tariff, which was jointly agreed by CUC and CPUC consultant Georgetown Consulting.

"The [hearing examiner] report should reflect that the Incentive Tariff was stipulated to between the parties," it said, adding that the same report should also reflect that the incentive tariff starts four months after approval of the order.

CUC specifically countered the hearing examiner's report that "the Tariff will be effective the day after the commission's decision."

"CUC bargained for and agreed that the four-month period would begin to run based on the approval date of the master contract. Accordingly, the report and the commission's ultimate decision should reflect the language set forth in the Tariff," added CUC's response letter.

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Expectations on Inos' first SOCA today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A sense of direction and strong leadership are among the things that lawmakers anticipate as they listen today to Gov. Eloy S. Inos' first State of the Commonwealth Address before a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Inos, a former lieutenant governor, became governor when Be-

nigno R. Fitial resigned amid an impeachment process on Feb. 20, 2013.

The controversial Saipan casino law and application process, now under court litigation, won't be front and center in his SOCA, but Inos said it would be a part of discussion on revenue-generating measures.

He said even if the current lawsuits against the Saipan casino are resolved, "it doesn't

mean there won't be any more lawsuits."

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Timanian) said yesterday he would like to hear Inos say "how he is leading things forward while rectifying the wrongs."

"I would like him to give us an [update about the] CNMI's financial condition; his plan of action with regards to where we need to be," said Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Yumul also hopes that there won't be a casino "lecture."

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan) expects the governor to "highlight the trend that our economy is well on its way to recovery; the differences between this upcoming fiscal year and those past [years]."

"I do hope that we will hear news or new influx of businesses or revenue that will help the CNMI get there sooner rather than later," Camacho said.

Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (Ind-Saipan) hopes that

the governor will focus on the economy "and his plans on how to govern within the confines of the annual budget."

"We have multiple immediate problems such as CHC [Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.], CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] and Retirement Fund. I look forward to hearing his plans how to address these issues in the next five months," Yumul said last night.

Inos is running for governor in the November elections under the Republican Party. His run-

ning mate is Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan). Yumul, meanwhile, is a lieutenant governor candidate, with former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider as his running mate and gubernatorial bet as independents.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will also deliver remarks before the joint session of the CNMI Legislature.

Today's joint legislative session to receive the governor's SOCA is at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

MONDALA

From Page 1

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$7,500 cash bail for the 69-year-old Mondala, who is being held on charges of theft; theft of services; forgery; use of office, staff or

employees of public office; restraints on use of public position to obtain benefits for business or social acquaintances; restraints on use of public supplies, time and personnel for campaign activities; and misconduct in public office.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 12 at 1:30pm.

OPA investigator Juanette F. David-Atalig stated in her report that the investigation began in September 2009 when their office received a complaint that then-Office on Aging director Mondala was using the office's kitchen and staff to prepare food for the Covenant Party's political rally.

David-Atalig said the tipster disclosed that Mondala used government funds and materials to purchase goods for this rally and that at the time, Mondala was responsible for the hotdog stand for that occasion.

OPA received another anonymous tip in December 2010 that Mondala allegedly used funds

that were allocated for the Tinian Office on Aging to purchase materials for her house in Kagman.

The tipster identified a former government employee who could provide more information and possible evidence to support the allegations against Mondala.

OPA chief investigator Juan Santos interviewed in February 2012 that former government employee, who provided Santos with copies of invoices that she kept as proof that Mondala was misusing local and federal funds for her personal benefit as well as providing for the needs of the Covenant Party during the 2009 elections.

The former government employee disclosed that Mondala once admitted to her that she forged her signatures on several invoices that identify purchases for \$2,949 between September and December 2009.

The former government employee said Mondala not only instructed her to destroy the invoices but on at least one occasion she was also instructed to deliver these items to the Covenant Party headquarters on Middle Road, Saipan.

OPA identified an invoice from Luen Fung Enterprises, which indicates six cases of Bar S Jumbo Franks that were purchased on Nov. 6, 2009, through a government purchase order.

The following day, another purchase was made at the Hafa Adai Bakery for 126 bags of hotdog buns.

Mondala allegedly forged the former government employee's signature on both of these invoices. The items were used for a political function and that they were delivered to the Covenant Party headquarters.

A kitchen staff at the Office on Aging also disclosed that during the 2009 elections, Mondala allowed Covenant Party supporters to use their kitchen to cook for the party's political functions.

Another Office on Aging staff said that on three occasions, Mondala asked him to cook some food for a Covenant Party event. Mondala allegedly instructed him to use the Office on Aging kitchen and supplies.

An OPA auditor examined a large amount of documents including purchase orders, invoices, and other documents related to the Office on Aging kitchen and its supplies.

Excessive and frequent purchases were made to only two

vendors: Oscar B. Camacho and Blue Marlin I.

David-Atalig said Camacho is Mondala's half-brother, while the owner of Blue Marlin I is her close friend, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro.

Camacho's business license expired in November 2008, but six purchase orders were issued to Camacho dated after the expiration date of his license totaling \$5,473.50.

Kitchen staff revealed that Mondala often purchased more vegetables from Camacho than the kitchen could possibly use and that many times the vegetables would rot and had to be thrown away.

With respect to Ogumoro's Blue Marlin I, a kitchen supervisor disclosed that on average, she would order three to four cases of frozen fish to feed the senior citizens at least once a week.

The OPA auditor's analysis of the purchases from Blue Marlin I show that the fresh fish purchases in heavy quantities do not correspond to the kitchen supervisor's statements that the officer orders fish from wholesalers and not usually from fresh fish vendors.

David-Atalig cited as an example an invoice on Dec. 12, 2010, in the amount of \$1,136.15 and also an invoice on the same date in the amount of \$2,500. These two purchases on the same date were for 775.7 lbs of fresh reef fish.

The Office on Aging kitchen supervisor was told that only Ogumoro was allowed to pick up leftover food and spoiled vegetables from their office. In exchange, he allegedly promised to provide a roast pig for any special event at the Man'Amko center. The supervisor told the OPA investigator she has never seen any roast pig from Ogumoro for the senior citizens.

The former employee also disclosed that in that same year, Mondala instructed her to pick up materials from Transamerica Hardware Store in Garapan and deliver the items to Mondala's house in Kagman.

The former employee provided OPA with four invoices for the items that were used to build a fence around Mondala's house. Two Office on Aging employees were used to build the fence.

Mondala allegedly used the Office on Aging pickup truck to pick up the two employees from their residence and brought them to her house to work.



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For more information, contact the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary Historical Society at 236-9805.

Man allegedly raped woman who asked for betel nut

A 49-year-old man was arrested for allegedly raping a woman who asked him for betel nut at his home in China Town last Tuesday afternoon.

Edwin Somorang Kileman was taken to Superior Court on Friday to face two charges, including sexual assault in the first degree.

A \$45,000 cash bail was initially imposed for the his temporary release but Asso-

ciate Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Friday granted assistant public defender Eden Schwartz's motion to release her client on the grounds that he was held unlawfully for more than 24 hours.

Camacho found out that Kileman was arrested without a warrant on Wednesday at 12:41pm and then detained for more than 26 hours.

"The Department of Pub-

lic Safety must do better. Defendant Kileman's case involves serious charges..." the judge said.

The court, the judge noted, is mandated by the Constitution and the Commonwealth Criminal Code to order Kileman's release from custody.

"The blame for dropping the ball falls squarely on the shoulders of the DPS officer," he said.

Camacho prohibited Kile-

man from having contact with the alleged victim while charges are pending.

The judge directed Kileman to remain in contact with his attorney and appear at all future court proceedings where his appearance is mandatory.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government at the hearing.

A police report states that an officer responded to Kile-

man's house on Wednesday morning in response to a report of a rape incident.

The victim allegedly told police that she was at Kileman's house on Tuesday to ask him for betel nut and he told her to go inside the bedroom to check. Kileman then walked inside the room and allegedly touched her privates so she told him to stop. The suspect then threat-

ened to beat her up and then allegedly raped her.

The victim told police that Kileman has been sexually assaulting her for the past 10 months but she was scared to report it.

Police detective Rhonda John stated in her report that during her interview at the Department of Corrections the day after Kileman's arrest, the defendant admitted having sex with the victim on Tuesday and claimed it was consensual. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Police arrest driver of fatal van crash

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police arrested last week the driver of a Toyota Sienna van that crashed into a power pole along As Perdido Road, killing a woman and her unborn 5-month-old baby.

Chang Hee Nam, 58, was arrested for vehicular homicide, reckless driving, speed limits, and safety belts on passenger vehicles.

Nam made his first court appearance on Friday. His bail was set at \$10,000 cash.

Traffic investigator Norris Kwon stated in his report that the Toyota Sienna van crashed into

a power pole along As Perdido Road last June 22. The incident was reported to police at 11am.

Kwon said the van, occupied by five persons, was traveling east when it lost control by the curve and crashed into the pole.

When Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas arrived at the scene, he saw one conscious female passenger, one male infant crying in pain, and three unconscious passengers that were trapped in the van. Medics had to use the "Jaws of Life" tool to extricate the victims.

Nam, who was the driver, was unconscious. All occupants were not restrained, including the infant child. One female

passenger seated on the third row had no pulse and had severe head injuries.

Tire marks could be seen on the wet pavement leading from a sharp curve of the highway to the final resting area of the van. Kwon calculated that the van was traveling at 55.29 miles per

hour based on the tire marks.

The female passenger was pronounced dead on arrival at 12:16pm at the Commonwealth Health Center for severe head injuries. The four occupants, including Nam, were treated and admitted for serious injuries.

Traffic investigators deter-

mined that speed was the major cause of the crash, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst. Hurst said the fatality was a 36-year-old Chinese national.

Nam, a Korean national, sustained a bruised left eye and a fractured jaw. The other

passengers—a 30-year-old Chinese woman, complained of pain to the left hip, and a 2-year-old Chinese boy sustained a fractured left femur and abrasions on the forehead, shoulder, and temple.

The van had extensive damage on its driver's side rear door.

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Time: 10:00 a.m.

"SUPPLY OF LAPTOPS FOR CDA"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM P.O. BOX 501370 SAIPAN, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC Meeting on Thursday, July 3, 2014, 9:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. ICC Part C Determination
- II. Coordinators Reports
- III. SSIP
- IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/s/ Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator,
Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEAS, Part B Funds.

RETIRED, RESPECTED, RELAXED!



BEST SUNSHINE IMPROVES THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND STABILIZES THE RETIREMENT FUND

The development of our Integrated Resort will be a strong stimulus for Saipan and will revive the ailing economy of the islands. The instability of the Retirement Fund is going to be a problem of the past. Our annual license payments of US\$ 15,000,000 are merely a first step in the right direction. The needs of retirees must be assured, their past contributions respected. Best Sunshine is committed to the future of Saipan.

www.bestsunshineint.com

Empowering Saipan

BEST SUNSHINE
International

BEST SUNSHINE'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI

In its response to the Request for Proposal for Casino Resort Developer License, Best Sunshine introduced its plans to create a Community Chest with an initial contribution of

US\$10,000,000 CASH

to be distributed to locally-born adults in the CNMI in the form of CUC cash vouchers within 60 days of Best Sunshine being awarded the exclusive license

Based on survey results and discussions with stakeholders in the community, Best Sunshine will commit the following additional funds to the Community Chest

US\$20,000,000 CASH

to be distributed within 60 days of Best Sunshine commencing construction works on its first hotel in the proposed Integrated Resort

AT LEAST US\$20,000,000 PER YEAR CASH

to be distributed every year after the 1st full year of operations of Best Sunshine's first hotel in the proposed Integrated Resort

IN ADDITION TO

Best Sunshine's firm commitment to the CNMI as part of the community outreach program, which will not only benefit organizations such as the hospital, churches, schools, training institutes, Transit Authority, medical referral program and Retirement Fund, but will also create numerous jobs for the local population

More:

US\$15,000,000

Aside from the Community Chest contribution, Best Sunshine will also pay the license fee for Year 6 of operations in advance.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this advertisement was presented to the Government as part of Best Sunshine's submission to the Request for Proposal for Casino Resort Developer License. All payments into the Community Chest and made from the Community Chest will be in compliance with federal and CNMI laws and subject to approval by the Government and acceptance by the people of the CNMI. The recipients who will benefit from the Community Chest will be a decision made by the principal officers of Best Sunshine and Best Sunshine will not be legally liable in any way for any special, direct, indirect or consequential loss or damage or for any taxes arising from the decision; furthermore, the decision might vary in the event of any legal disputes. If any part of this disclaimer is determined by any court or other competent authority to be unlawful and/or unenforceable, the other sections of this disclaimer continue in effect.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary**

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950 Tel. (670) 664-2576 Fax (670) 664-2570



**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
For Tinian and Rota Residents**

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Assessment on active clients who are terminally ill or with special needs and new enrollment

**CHILD CARE and DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
New Applicants**

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be doing pre-eligibility assessments in Tinian and Rota only for LIHEAP and CCDF PROGRAMS.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time:

LIHEAP

Location	Date	Time	Submission Dates and Time	Final Date to Submit Application
Tinian Office on Aging Center	July 2 & 3, 2014	10:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.	See LIHEAP Staff on site	See LIHEAP Staff on site
Rota Office on Aging Center	July 14, 2014	9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.	See LIHEAP Staff on site	See LIHEAP Staff on site
Rota C and CA	July 15, 2014	9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.	See LIHEAP Staff on site	See LIHEAP Staff on site

Requirements:

* for clients who are terminally ill or with special needs, must provide physician note

* for new enrollment (applicants):

- updated police clearance
- copy of Birth Certificate or valid Passport
- 3 latest check stubs
- Source of income
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Copy of latest CUC billing

For questions regarding the LIHEAP please call 664-2568 or 664-2578

CCDF

Location	Date	Time	Submission Dates and Time	Final Date to Submit Application
Tinian Youth Center	July 2, 2014	10:30a.m. to 3:30p.m.	See CCDF Staff on site	See CCDF Staff on site
Rota C and CA Office	July 14, 2014	9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.	See CCDF Staff on site	See CCDF Staff on site

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

A. For Full Time Students or in Training with Zero Income:

- School Documents such as acceptance letter and/or class schedule
- Must be enrolled full time (12 credits)
- If attending ABE must provide letter from ABE Office indicating that the student is considered full time
- In Training: must have documents indicating a minimum of 40 training hours bi-weekly

B. For Full Time students with income:

- All requirements under letter A plus
- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2013 for both parents

C. For working parents:

- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2013 for both parents

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/664-2589/664-2576.

Full Requirements

Applicant of Household:

1. Three (3) latest check stubs each parent or legal guardian (if legal guardian, must provide copy of Court Documents)
 - a. Applicant's Full Name
 - b. Hours worked (minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly)
 - c. Hourly Rate
 - d. Gross Monthly Earnings
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian
 - a. Passport
 - b. CNMI Driver's License
 - c. Mayor's ID
 - d. CW 1, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2013 (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: Provide one of the following:
 - a. House Rental/ Mortgage
 - b. Utility Receipt
 - c. Telephone Receipt
 - d. CW 1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
5. Employment verification (CCDF prescribed form)
6. Training/Education Verification
 - a. Letter of Acceptance from Institution
 - b. Full time student
 - i. Twelve (12) Credit Units
 - ii. Letter from ABE indicating full time status
7. Notarized Affidavit indicating (CCDF Form)
 - a. Parent is single
 - b. Child Support Statement
8. Status: CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics documentation (if applicable)

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

CNMI Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program

Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Level	Family Size	Income Level
1	\$958.00	5	\$2298.00
2	\$1293.00	6	\$2633.00
3	\$1628.00	7	\$2968.00
4	\$1963.00	8	\$3303.00

For families with more than 8 persons, add \$335.00 to each additional family member

Approved for distribution: /s/Laura T. Ogumoro
DCCA Secretary

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

**Esther Kia'aina
is confirmed as
Insular Assistant
Secretary**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Senate confirmed Esther Puekela Kia'aina on Friday to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas. Kia'aina was nominated for the position by President Barack Obama in September and renominated on Jan. 6 at the beginning of the second session of the 113th Congress.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) issued the following congratulatory statement: "My congratulations to Ms. Kia'aina on her confirmation by the U.S. Senate to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas. The office she will be heading plays a vital role in helping the Northern Mariana Islands and the other U.S. insular areas develop our economies, build public infrastructure, and nurture our human resources."

"I know that, as Assistant Secretary, Ms. Kia'aina will bring a new sense of urgency and direction to those efforts. And I thank President Obama for filling this vital position with a person of Ms. Kia'aina's energy and expertise."

"Ms. Kia'aina and I have known each others since the 1980s, when we worked together for Hawaii Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. I look forward to working together again, she as Assistant Secretary and I as Ranking Member on the House subcommittee responsible for insular affairs, for the benefit of America's island jurisdictions."

Kia'aina has a long familiarity with insular issues. In addition to her time with Inouye, she worked as a Legislative Assistant with his Hawaii counterpart, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka. She followed with time as chief of staff and Legislative Director for Delegate Robert A. Underwood (D-Guam) from 1999 to 2003 and as chief of staff for Rep. Ed Case (D-Hawaii) from 2003 to 2007.

Before her nomination, Kia'aina served as First Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources for Hawaii under Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

"I thought it particularly fitting that the senior senator from Hawaii, Mazie K. Hirono, should be presiding over the U.S. Senate, when Ms. Kia'aina was confirmed [Friday]," Sablan remarked. "We are all proud to see a Pacific Islander leading the Office of Insular Affairs again."

Kia'aina received a B.A. from the University of Southern California and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School. (*Office of the Delegate*)

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 30, 2006

NMC's \$13K lump sum payment questioned

The Northern Marianas College is again under fire for reportedly making a lump sum annual leave payment of \$13,000 to its finance executive. According to Rep. Stanley T. Torres, NMC's recent decision to transfer NMC finance and procurement director Raaj Kurapati to the similar position of chief of finances and administrative services chief resulted in Kurapati's receiving the lump sum payment. Torres filed an Open Government Act request with NMC president Antonio Deleon Guerrero yesterday, asking for Kurapati's employee records for the last three years and records of any annual leave lump sum payment processed in the last year.

'Fraudulent' donation dismays MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority has expressed dismay over the alleged fraudulent solicitation from a Japanese national to build a monument on Saipan 30 years ago. "It is unfortunate...and we value your feeling of remorse for him [Michio Higashi], and your willingness to find a way to build a small monument to house his plaque. The MVA is also discontented with this occurrence and extend our sincere apologies to him," said acting MVA managing director Tess Castro in a May 12 letter to Yoichi Matsumura, general manager of Pacific Development Ind. Matsumura, who is also a member of the MVA board, disclosed this week that 30 years ago, money was allegedly solicited from Higashi of the Kagoshima Prefecture in Japan to build a peace monument in Banzai Cliff, but this monument was never built.

June 30, 2007

12 rescued from stranded vessel

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued 12 passengers from a disabled CNMI-registered vessel that was stranded 20 nautical miles northwest of Guam. The passengers, comprising six men and six women, all believed to be Chinese except for one man who is Filipino, were brought back to Saipan. In an interview with KSPN Channel 2, LTJG Hirschberg of the U.S. Coast Guard declined to comment if the incident was an attempt to smuggle these individuals to Guam. "At the moment, there are no indications that laws were broken," he said. He said the Filipino man appeared to be the boat's captain, while the 20-foot craft itself was made of fiberglass and appeared to be "home-made."

Rotanese soldier completes training at Ordnance Corps

PFC Ray Ervin Inos Manglona of Rota was among several hundred soldiers who recently completed an intensive 10 weeks of advance military and ordinance training at the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps at the Army Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland. The graduation ceremony, held June 26, 2007, marks the accomplishment of each soldier's advance training upon completion of Basic training. Manglona is the son of Tom and Laura Manglona of Rota. He is married to Antonette Reyes and has three children. Prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army Manglona was a police officer on Rota.

June 30, 2008

Don't hold your breath'

Federal Ombudsman James Benedetto has urged foreign workers to be practical and not put their life on hold for the possibility of getting green cards. Speaking before some 150 workers at a forum Saturday, Benedetto said that while long-time guest workers may eventually get improved status under the new immigration law, they should not hold their breath waiting for it to happen. "I wouldn't advise you to stay in the Commonwealth waiting for green cards, if you don't have a job. By all means, go to where the pasture seems to be greener right now," Benedetto said at the forum organized by the Coalition of United Workers.

Many errors cited in proposed 2009 budget

A legislative committee wants the governor's budget proposal to be returned to the administration for correction and resubmission. The Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, led by Sen. Maria Frica T. Pangilinan, said the budget package for the 2009 fiscal year is unacceptable because it has too many mathematical errors. "We have come to the conclusion that the governor's budget proposal contains enough math errors and data inaccuracies to justify no further consideration until such errors and inaccuracies are corrected or clarified and resubmitted," the committee said in a report.



DO YOU CARE?

DO YOU CARE WHETHER THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS HEARD ON WHETHER CASINO GAMING WILL BE ALLOWED ON SAIPAN? **MARIANAS STARS** supports the right of the people, either directly or through their elected representatives, to decide the future of their islands. We oppose any efforts to gut the referendum process. In legislative proceedings, we support a thorough, deliberate and transparent process where the people have the opportunity to be heard. We would be honored to be awarded a casino gaming license on Saipan, but only through a fair and transparent process that has the broad support of the people.

DO YOU CARE WHETHER TINIAN AND ROTA WILL PROSPER ALONG WITH SAIPAN? If the people choose casino gaming on Saipan, **MARIANAS STARS** has a plan to ensure that the islands will develop together. Our sister company has already invested over \$40 million on Tinian, and has plans to invest over \$600 million more for a 5-star hotel, luxury villas, a golf course, a water park and other projects. If we are fortunate enough to receive a license on Saipan, we would have every incentive to make sure that our projects on both islands prosper. Part of our plan would be to improve transportation links between the islands—not only to transport guests back and forth between Saipan and Tinian, but to provide much improved connections to Rota and Guam as well.

DO YOU CARE WHETHER THE CNMI GETS THE MONEY IT NEEDS TO HELP RETIREES, STUDENTS, WORKERS AND EVERYONE ELSE? If the people choose casino gaming on Saipan, **MARIANAS STARS** respectfully requests that the following proposal be considered: Don't just award one license, award two—assuming each applicant meets the qualifications. Take the current plan for one 2,000-room mega-resort and split it into two 1,000-room resorts. But keep the fees the same for each licensee, so that the CNMI gets a total of \$30 million per year from the two licensees rather than just \$15 million from one. Each applicant will get half a loaf, but the CNMI will get twice the revenue for the retirees. For health care. For schools. For infrastructure. For everyone. Healthy competition will create greater prosperity and greater accountability. More importantly, a non-monopoly assures the integrity of the process, removing any suspicion that legislation was rushed, or designed, for any one bidder.

DO YOU CARE? WE CARE. BECAUSE WE'RE ALREADY YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Oloomway. Thank You.

**MARIANAS STARS:
THE PEOPLE OF THE
CNMI DESERVE BETTER!**

www.marianastars.com



Opinion

Hara Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Court ruling is a victory for EPA authority

The U.S. Supreme Court got it right this week when it upheld the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions.

In two well-balanced rulings, a split court made clear that the EPA has broad, but not unlimited, authority and the court pointedly warned that it will take a dim view if the EPA intrudes into the power of Congress or interprets its powers too aggressively. The court says the EPA can regulate plants from spewing unacceptable levels of pollutants and require those facilities to obtain permits related to greenhouse-gas emissions, but the EPA can't regulate the permitting and operating of plants based solely on greenhouse-gas emissions.

Importantly, the court rulings don't excuse facilities that emit greenhouse gases from the burden of reducing bad emissions, a ruling that would have handcuffed the EPA and reversed its historical role as environmental guardian. This newspaper has long supported the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions and to set certain other environmental standards, authority derived from the Clean Air Act, approved by Congress and signed in 1970 by a Republican president. Now a conservative Supreme Court has added its voice.

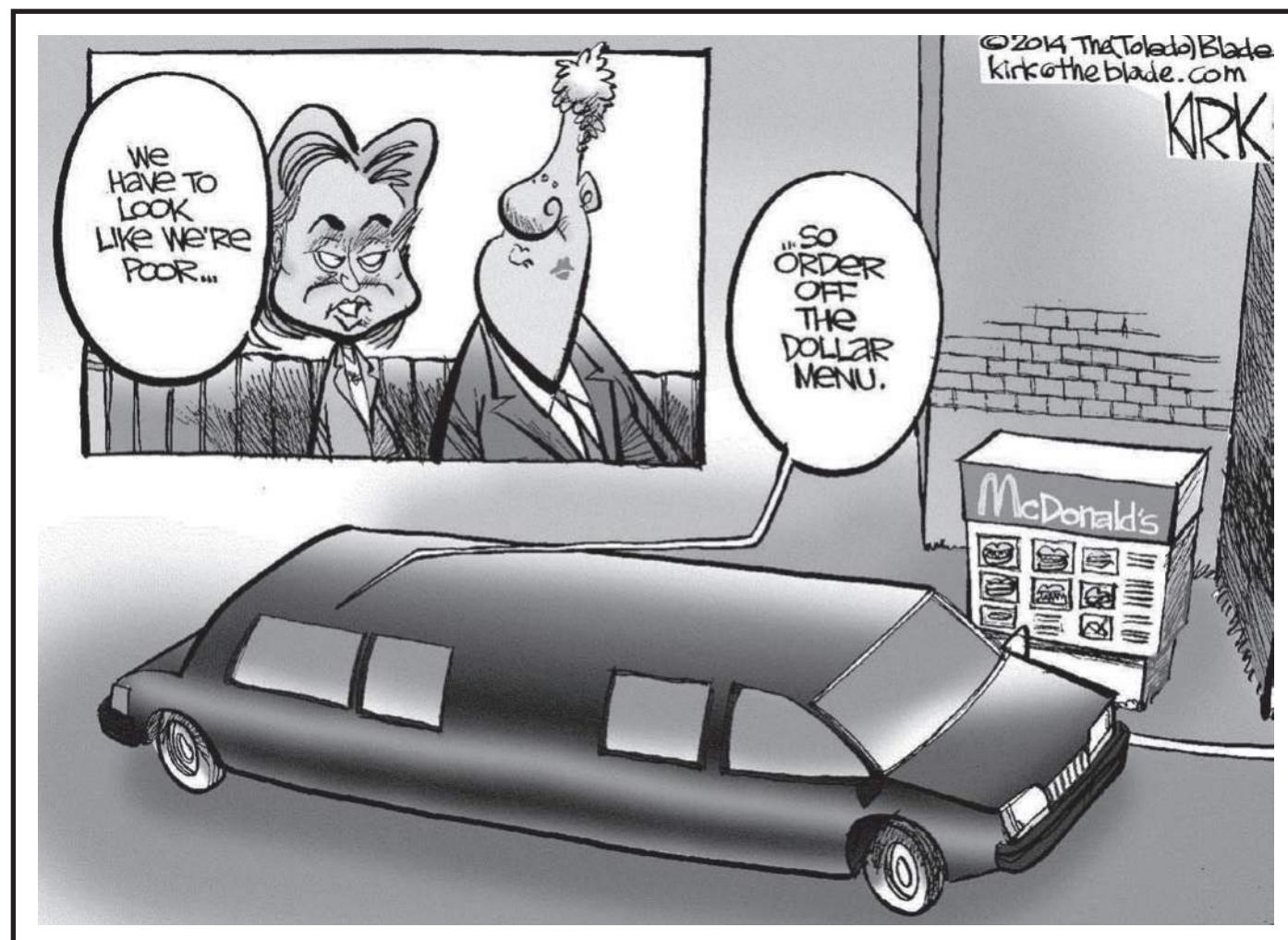
We hope Monday's dual rulings deliver a message of moderation to both sides—persistent EPA critics such as Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney General and GOP gubernatorial candidate Greg Abbott, as well to the agency itself, which must guard against overreach. Cleaner energy is critical to this country's future. States such as Texas can't remain competitive if they squander time and energy challenging the EPA's right to set standards.

Also important is that the rulings don't affect President Barack Obama's proposed rules that would require states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal plants—a major source of greenhouse gases—up to 30 percent from 2005 levels. Those rules, still in draft form and subject to comments and revisions, would give states and utilities broad options for compliance, such as improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of natural gas, using more renewable energy and making power plant improvements.

Historically, Texas consumes and produces more electricity than any other state, and per capita residential use is significantly higher than the national average. Roughly 35 percent of all greenhouse gases released by industrial sources in the U.S. originate in Texas, much of it from the state's energy sector. Texas and the EPA should be at the forefront of efforts to reduce emissions.

The greenhouse-gas threat is real and Congress has failed to modernize the law to confront this challenge. In that vacuum, the EPA took the lead and the Supreme Court this week upheld that effort.

©2014 The Dallas Morning News



Ramadan 2014

The season begins on Sunday evening, June 29, and ends 30 days later on Sunday night, July 27. In the Hijri Islamic calendar, it is the 1435th observance of fasting from sun up to sundown.

Like many religious observances, this one has a practical origin. The fasting of the Syrian Christians Lenten season preceded it, but Ramadan was also a response to the scorching heat and extreme dryness of the year, thus fasting and inactivity during the day made lots of physiological sense.

Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. *Shahadah* is the foundation, declaring the oneness of God ("la ilaha illa Allah"), and Muhammad is the messenger of a radical lucidity on the unity of life. Five times each day, the ritual of prayer, *salat*, is observed. Social responsibility is pegged at 2.5 percent of one's savings, the *zakat*, shared with the poor and needy in one's community. *Sawm* is the fasting and the discipline of self-control during the month of Ramadan. Once in a lifetime, a devotee undertakes a pilgrimage to Mecca called the *Hajj*.

"*Salaam malaikum*" and "*Malaikum salaam*" are greetings approximating the salutations of "Peace be with you" and "And also with you." The Muslim greeting is heard on the streets of Saipan as muezzins of the two mosques on island call the faithful to prayers. As a minority group, they are perhaps more dismissive of the Shia/Sunni divide that is wreaking havoc in areas where the Muslims are a majority, and be more conciliatory to each other in the manner prescribed in the Quran.

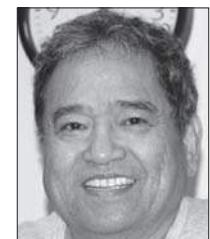
In predominantly Muslim Iraq, the Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis have difficulty getting their act together, not just for the ethno-nationalism predominant in the region but also the economic power struggle on who has access and control of the black gold on the ground.

Recent diplomatic effort of John Kerry of the U.S. State Department to promote a unity government in Iraq got turned down by PM Maliki, who do not see a greater representation of the Sunni Arab community led previously by deposed Saddam Hussein. The sectarian and authoritarian policies of Maliki are exploited by jihadist militants fomenting for Islamic states in Iraq and the rest of the Levant.

We demonize Islam similar to what progressives and liberals in the U.S. do when we go after the pickup-riding white *Kristian* rednecks that are alleged cousins to the Ku Klux Klan. In the devotion to Allah, the ethos of unity is an overriding concern, thus the harmony of its faithful is a given expectation. The same expectation surrounds the overarching power of "love" in the Christian tradition. The assertive defense of Israel toward its ancient borders is understandable in light of its history since the Roman Empire took over Jerusalem, to Germany's policy and practice of genocide in the Holocaust during World War II. One cannot say the same of the imperial designs of both Christendom

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



and Islam. Still, it is well to glean the gifts of three traditions from the Levant.

I was introduced to the authority of scriptures in Protestant Christianity that led to the priesthood of all believers and the confidence in each one to decide on one's own on matters of faith and practice. The reality of the-way-life-is I took to be the all-powerful faith statement of YHWH folks of Jerusalem, leading them to decide ethnically to be the covenant people to lead in "praise" of that reality.

The covenant to be personally chosen became a matter of choice, to play the role of the Christ, unfortunately deformed in the current idolatry of Jesus. Mohammad brought that back to the complete freedom of the "prophet-hood" but instead of sticking to the night of power when the *Quran*, Allah's self-revelation, was first revealed to the prophet, now celebrated in Ramadan, followers quickly converted the event into the idolatry of the book, the authority of those who perceive themselves to be its keepers, and the exclusiveness of its male-centered hierarchy.

Authority has become an issue in our time. The Zionists understandably established the Land of Israel after the western millennial anti-Semitic history. Ecclesiastical authority was the Church's concern since Constantine that got anchored in the primacy of the Bishop of Rome, later supplanted by the papal pope and the integrity of all believers. Mohammed had the prospect of pulling authority out of social structures into the authenticity of freedom but the politics of the bubbly crude in the desert got his followers into power struggles.

In our time, the whole issue of "authority" is in question. The reality of authenticity, not authority, is the ascendant human spirit.

The divesting of "things," faithfully adhering to Allah as the "no-thing" during Ramadan, is in tune with Christian existentialist and phenomenologists' move from creed to social action, but now, as a thorough-going secularist, I say a return to the wisdom of YHWH, the way-life-is, without authority of learned "experts," but on the authentic witness of individual instinct, intuition, intellect, and intention, we might yet turn the arid air of the desert to the productive human spirit of the world.

"*Salaamu 'Alaykum.*"

Disposition of NMI land

The federal district court upheld J. Davis' right to vote as a U.S. citizen on local initiatives. The decision is about his right to vote. It is not about his right to landownership here.

Indeed, the decision reverses a legitimate query worthy of review: Davis can't own land here so why should he partake in the disposition of indigenous land?

The focus of the contentious debate is on keeping land for CNMI descent versus individual citizen's right to landownership and final disposition. The old land tenure system, replaced by Article 12, had the latter fully intact.

Proponents of keeping Article 12 want to retain what's known as tradition in our relationship with the land. This, however, has shifted significantly since after the war. But it is embraced as hegemonic tradition worth keeping as the permanent anchor of the indigenous people. Be that as it may, individual landownership has been around since time immemorial too.

Wouldn't trashing Article 12 lead to landownership of private and public land by every Tom, Dick, and Harry? Wouldn't this someday leave landless posterity longing with empty spirits that something is missing in their link to land? Is this an issue that non-NMDs could understand using our prism? Is the local prism of landownership the same with those who view it as just another commodity one eventually disposes?

Meanwhile, proponents to keeping Article 12 vacillate over the essence of this provision. As a matter of curiosity, I'd ask which amount would they choose, e.g., a Korean offering \$180K or a local with \$30K for their property. The answer is loud and clear—the former—and there's no two ways about it either. Interesting the interchangeable agreement and disagreement when money is involved.

Individual landownership has been around since time immemorial up until 1978. We've never heard that it has had deleterious effects on landownership. But are there legitimate reasons why land sale should be limited to the indigenous people and is the sacrifice worth it? Only

the rich locals with connections to foreigners loaded with money would plunder land, using new real estate concept screwing their own people. This has been and continues to blossom today.

We've heard spouts that Article 12 is unconstitutional but it hasn't been litigated before the U.S. Supreme Court and therefore doesn't hold water. But if such local constitutional provision is legally deficient, why are Native Americans allowed to keep their land to themselves? Eh, what's good for the goose is also good for the gander, right? Why can't the same legal standard be made equally applicable in terms of CNMI indigenous landownership?

The most thoughtful sentiment I've heard in favor of Article 12 came from local scholars with nationalistic sentiments. Their vision transcends current relationship with the U.S. They wish to begin anew under a freely associated state arrangement. It may seem far-fetched but everything begins with the power of ideas. Nationalistic sentiments or island nation building begins by planting the seed of change to improve upon a deficient agreement.

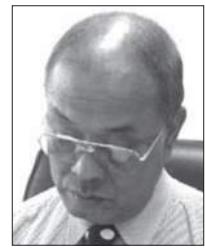
With or without Article 12, the land belongs to this son of the islands. And I don't need half-cocked initiatives to exercise my right to land disposition the way I see fit. I'd like to see who'd challenge my disposition. It's my land so steer clear of preachy and disoriented redefinition of a citizen's rights to landownership. It's unalienable!

Article 12 also includes definition of those who could qualify to own land. Strangely, it eliminates full-blooded NMDs who weren't here in 1950. Since when did Article 12 replace rights to land inheritance? Isn't this in violation of my right to secure inherited land from my parents? Do you see the fallacy and lunacy of this specific provision? It's a wonderful concoction in ethnicity loaded with filthy and shallow excuses! Nice try!

Others feel that the Manglona decision didn't take into account the significance of the return of public land in 1977. This was done in full view of the future of the indigenous people Marianas-wide. As such, only the permanent hosts of these isles have final disposition on land. Thus such disposition should remain solely with the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



indigenous people.

Furthermore, it is arbitrary for any court to set a term in determining the "will of the people." Nah! The Covenant agreement is a permanent arrangement including Section 805 or land alienation provision. It's up to the people to decide when should it dispose of this provision, not the courts.

A friend related that to hold unto what many perceive as indigenous land isn't without hegemonic foundation. It's embedded in a unique tradition like a complete fish composed of the head, body, and tail. "In a prayer, the question arises: does a mother forget the baby in her womb?" The ancestral stewards of the land were buried on these islands. Even in contemporary Marianas, we're only temporary stewards of these isles. Keep your land for posterity!

Investing in our people

Much has been said about the unreliability of local employees but hardly anyone dares point out the natural behavior of employees at the entry level. Each is looking for better wage and salary thus the instant shift when he or she lands one, irrespective of ethnicity.

In a bad economy, discussing minimum wage is an exercise in futility. It's good though to refocus the discussion on training and education. A temporary sacrifice on skills acquisition (vocational training) or two years at NMC is a surer ticket beyond minimum wage. It's a sturdy march to good or better paying jobs ahead.

They're praying for the worst; is that wrong?

By ELIZABETH MCALISTER

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Portugal's soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo is suffering from tendinitis in his knee, which kept him out of a recent match against Greece. And a Ghanaian traditional priest named Nana Kwaku Bonsam has claimed credit for the injury.

Bonsam recently announced on Ghanaian radio that for four months he had been "working on" Ronaldo, in hopes of sidelining the world's top soccer player before Ghana and Portugal met in the World Cup. "They can never see what is causing the injury, because it is spiritual," he said.

Isn't it against the rules of religion to pray against a person?

Hardly. Negative prayer is actually quite common. And praying for harm to befall another—called "imprecatory prayer"—is by no means the exclusive domain of tribal religions in the developing world. Some American evangelicals also have participated in high-profile prayer campaigns aimed at bringing adversity to others.

For the last five years, for example, one such campaign has urged Americans to "Pray for Obama: Psalm 109.8." People who see the slogan on bumper stickers and T-shirts may not realize that Psalm 109.8 is a negative prayer that reads, "May his days be few; may another take his office." The next line is chilling: "May his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow."

It is unclear who started the prayer campaign, but a scandal broke in 2012 with the leaking of an email from Kansas House Speaker Mike O'Neal. O'Neal sent the Psalm citation to fellow House members, saying: "At last—I can honestly voice a biblical prayer for our president! Look it up—it is word for word! Let us all bow our heads and pray."

The Secret Service has taken note of the threat inherent in the prayer campaign. But without direct evidence that people were actually advocating acts of violence, the ACLU and the Anti-Defamation League have concluded that the campaign to "Pray for Obama: Psalm 109.8" is a legal form of political speech.

In a way, though, that conclusion relies on secular logic. The ACLU and the ADL assume prayer to be ineffectual in causing harm. But many evangelicals believe negative forms of prayer can actually be efficacious weapons. This is why they use the term "spiritual warfare," and why they think it is best left to the experienced "prayer warrior."

Believers act as intercessors to "pray down" the forces of "the enemy," who is always the devil. The material targets of "warfare prayer" include meth labs, abortion clinics, strip clubs and other places of "spiritual wickedness." If such places are closed down or busted by law enforcement, then the warriors claim credit.

Nana Kwaku Bonsam is unusual in his brazen announcement that he prayed against Ronaldo. Western media have described him as a traditionalist who embraces media and technology to present his

religion with a modern, globalized face and to demonstrate its relevance to this generation's youth.

It's easy to dismiss the Ghanaian priest's claims as a bid for publicity combined with sheer coincidence. But don't many Americans believe in the power of positive prayer and positive thought? And

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Salvation Army

Shame on our politicians for creating the need

I just returned from the Saturday morning breakfast in Chalan Piao, where I counted 36 children and 15 adults having breakfast: eggs, hamburger patty, rice, and coffee or juice. I applaud the Salvation Army staff, all the volunteers, and others that make this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday breakfast and lunch possible. Thank you also to the local businesses that provide basic food and other necessities to the less fortunate in our community.

If you had elected qualified politicians instead of your unqualified relatives since 1978, you wouldn't need this service, Article 12, or casinos in the CNMI. Even now, more than 35 years later, governors are still appointing the same unqualified people to the same positions or rotating them to different departments, their only qualifications being, as far as I can tell, that they are loyal and they are NMDs. When a really qualified young person comes back from a good overseas school with a bachelor's in English or master's degree in business administration, they are shuttled off to places like the library or NMHC where their degrees have absolutely no relevance. Could it be that they are so much smarter, modern, and the bearer of new ideas that the old, arrogant, antiquated department heads feel threatened and don't want them to show them up for the political lackeys they are? I certainly don't know but I do know this is happening.

Elections are coming up and it's going to be another turkey shoot. I will be taking apart each ticket in the coming weeks so you can at least know that your uncle is or is not the most qualified candidate. Tradition will dictate that you have to vote for him of course, because he's your uncle but when everything gets messy again, you will have an idea why. That's for you over 40's. For those of you under 39, this would be a great time to break with tradition, which has given you 36 years of almost unbroken corruption. Yes, corruption, folks, also nepotism, cronyism, Yakuza, the Korean mob, rich guys buying politicos, shady deals made at night and junkets for almost every government high official exemplified by the recent trip to Macau by "un-

named government officials" and an almost instant casino bill when they got back. This is the primary reason Garapan has no sidewalks, drainage, streetlights, zoning or other amenities most "tourist destinations" have. It's cheaper for tourists to go to Guam than come here. I wonder why?

Break with tradition, vote for the most qualified candidate. Watch the paper, I will give you a full, unbiased report on all four slates, all eight people, in the coming weeks.

Gary DuBrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

True story

I know this is late getting to you, but I have not checked my email lately and missed the article from June 16, 2014, regarding whether the reports of suicides on Saipan during World War II were accurate. I don't know how many suicides there were, but I do know that there were suicides.

A gentleman who resides in the same community as I in Florida was talking to me about Saipan on one occasion when I went to visit while living on Saipan. I mentioned to him that we were getting ready to have our 60th reunion on Saipan of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian and as a former sailor who was stationed there during that time, he might want to consider going back for the reunion. He said he was an 18-year-old kid when there and that there was no way he would ever go back because part of his duty was retrieving bodies from the area around the base of Suicide Cliff. He said he would never, ever forget how horribly those people died. So at least one person remembers vividly cleaning up after people were told to commit suicide. How sad! Thank you.

Sylvia Wagner Haywood

Saipan resident 2006-2010

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 79°	▲ 87° ▼ 79°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 56
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 96 ▼ 70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 65
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 75
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 65
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 69
Paris	Rain	▲ 67 ▼ 52
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 68
Rome	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 66
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 65
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 68

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:50 AM	6:51 PM	Today	8:01 AM	8:53 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM	Tuesday	8:49 AM	9:33 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM	Wednesday	9:36 AM	10:11 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM	Thursday	10:23 AM	10:49 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM	Friday	11:10 AM	11:28 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHTOS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 18, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5078	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

ARRIVALS

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7
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GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
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ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7
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ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4
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SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 6 via NRT
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PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
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SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

BoG enables Rota auto shop to expand

Quality Automotive Tech has secured financing to expand its business operations and ensure a readily available selection of auto parts to customers on Rota. The Bank of Guam, through the support of the State Small Business Credit Initiative, made this financing available.

Jude Arriola, the owner of Quality Automotive Tech, plans to upgrade his repair equipment, making standard auto repairs quicker and more efficient. His target is to "provide the best automotive repair service on Rota."

As part of its expansion plan, customers of Quality Automotive Tech will notice a larger selection of auto parts available on island without waiting for off-island shipments.

"As creating local jobs is of high priority of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' administration, Quality Automotive Tech will add at least two additional jobs within one year of operation," said Department of Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar.

The CNMI through the Department of Commerce was allocated a total of \$13.2 million under the SSBCI Program to support two different loan programs. The

Commonwealth Development Authority is the implementing agency for the CNMI SSBCI Program. For questions regarding program implementation, contact Oscar Camacho, Loan Manager

with CDA, at (670) 234-6245 Ext. 308 or by email via loan@cda.gov.mp. The CNMI SSBCI program is fully positioned and ready to support additional commercial loans. (**CDA**)

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Key Functions:

The Executive Assistant will help the Executive Officer and the President maintain organizational relationships and act as the main point of contact particularly for business partners and customers in and from China, as well as colleagues and peers in the local Chinese Community. The Executive Assistant should support the management of the President's time and calendar to ensure that the President is fully informed and prepared for all meetings with such stakeholders and to assist in organizing events. The Executive Assistant should be highly organized, able to multi-task and manage multiple time-sensitive demands, have exceptional inter-personal and communication skills and support the mission of the organization. This professional must possess a combination of strategic thinking skills and the demonstrated ability to implement and manage the daily logistical demands of a project centered staff who work cross functionally to respond to the needs of the organization and its constituents.

Job Requirements:

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and/or Information Technology. With excellent English and Chinese communication skills both oral and written. Must possess experience in MS Office suite. One-year related experience in administrative type functions an advantage. Service-oriented, with strong organizational skills, active listening and active learning is required. Must be open to a variety of responsibilities, changing assignments, and be an overall team player.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. Human Resources office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, July 14, 2014.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

A minimum of 3 years work related experience required with a successful sales record. Ideally with an Associate's Degree in Sales & Marketing plus experience in F&B/restaurant operations and menu preparation. Proficient in MS Excel, Word, Outlook. Ability to speak Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese or Korean language will be an advantage. Must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. Availability to work evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

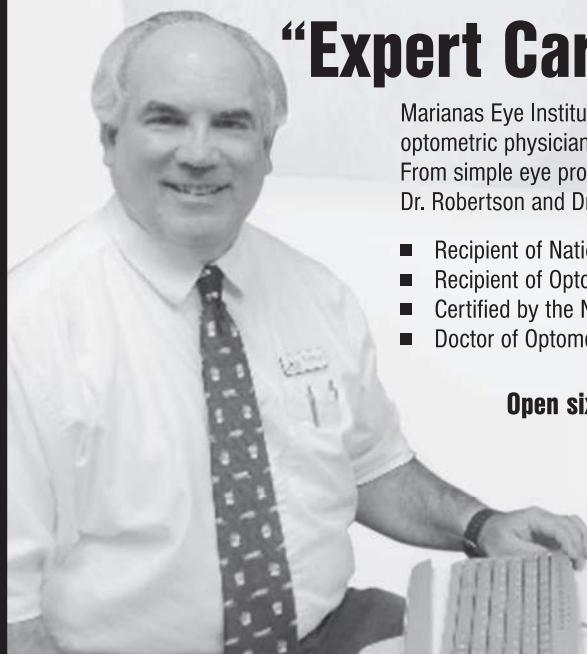
ACCOUNTANT

BA in Accounting and a minimum of 3 years experience is required, including preparation of financial statements, processing accounts receivables & payables and other general accounting procedures. Must possess work-related skills, have knowledge & experience in purchasing, inventory control and bank reconciliation. Proficient in various computer software: MS Excel, Word, Outlook and ACCPAC/Sage or similar accounting system. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants must submit an application and/or resume at our Saipan office located in the C.T.S.I. building, Lower Base, by September 14, 2014. Applications may also be sent to: mpk@dandq-international.com. The successful applicant will be required to provide a police clearance.

D&Q is an equal opportunity employer and has a drug free work environment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required.

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WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2013 CUC Annual Water Quality Report is now available on-line!

Please go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CCR-2013.pdf> to view what contaminants were detected in your water in 2013 and to learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

AYOOR REPOD

Yóómw 2013 CUC Annual Water Quality Report nge a llo on-line!

Uló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CCR-2013.pdf> bwe ubwe weri meta mil ngaw kka re schungi llól yóómw schaal llól 2013 me ubwe bawl ghi mataf reel úlúmómw schaal. Amataffal kkal nge eghi auscheya reel yáyál me ghatchúl yóómw schaal.

Faingi CUC reel (670) 664-4282 ngare u tipeli rebwe seleti ngalúgh amataff kkal, kkapas ngali eshay, me ngare u mwuschel eew kkopiyal rebwe bwughi llól reemw me ngare afanga ngálugh.

GUMUAHA RIPOT PÅ'GU

I iyom-mu 2013 CUC Annual na Ripot Kuálidåt Hånum esta på'gu gumuaha gi on-line!

Put fabot hånåo para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CCR-2013.pdf> para u ma'atan hâfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2013 yan para un tung'u más put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manimpottånti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuálidåt i hanum magimin.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matralslåda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hâyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian påppit u ma'entrega pat mana'håno guatu para hågu, put fabot ågang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.



GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



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Association of Christian Schools International

Regulatory commission urged to modify admin rules

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants the standing administrative rules of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to give the utility agency the authority to review and object to bills assessed by the commission and its consultants before these are paid.

CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher disclosed this in her latest filing with the regulatory commission, revealing that the

language requiring CUC to pay the consulting expenses "without limitation" is objectionable and should be stricken.

Fisher's filing is in response to the CPUC's hearing examiner report filed on June 17 that indicated several recommendations to the commission, including billings and fees.

"The commission's consultant and the consultant's attorney should not be billing CUC directly. CUC needs to have an opportunity to review and object. Equally importantly, the

commission should be reviewing these bills first, and then sending the billing to CUC with a request to pay," according to Fisher.

CUC, she added, sees a potential ethical problem in having a third-party payer of legal services review and comment on billings before the commission has already made its review and set forth its intentions.

"In addition, CUC sees a problem with the commission ordering payment of bills, which in these matters have been substantial, before the bill-

ings are put into utility rates," she said, adding that if CUC had a reserve, this could be an expense budgeted for reimbursement. But without a reserve or credit of any kind, CUC cannot be expected to pay substantial bills without first recovering these expenses in its rates.

Fisher said there are constitutional due process issues involved if the commission acts on this issue before CUC is able to present its position on these fees in an adjudicatory process.

"CUC has the right to re-

view fees before they are paid. CUC has already paid the annual charge of \$135,000 to the commission in the beginning of the year for the commission's operating expenses. This is on top of the fees the commission obtains from the other entities it regulates. See 4 CMC §8426(b). CUC believes it is entitled to see an expense statement which shows where this funding has gone before it is ordered to pay further commission operating expenses as a condition to the commission's decision on

CUC's rate petition," she added.

Fisher also said that CUC should not have to pay regular commission expenses for travel and administrative expenses, as these are costs that should be included in the annual assessment for all regulated entities. CUC is only required to pay for expenses that were "not considered or contemplated in determining the annual charges...." based on 4 CMC §8426(d).

"The recent billing of approximately \$30,000 is questionable as it appears to include expected costs of the commission which would be part of the annual charge which is paid by all regulated entities, not just CUC. The recent bill from the commission includes hearing examiner travels, commissioner travels, and compensation for time worked by the commission's administrative assistant.

While the commission can seek payment for expenses incurred by "specific proceedings," regarding professional and consultative services, these are only for proceedings not contemplated by the commission.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Family grief support meeting on July 3

A group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter in Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, July 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 989-9821 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatelfriends.org. (PR)

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, GUAM—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 1, from 1pm to 6pm, and July 2-3, from 2pm to 7pm. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Saipan lad earns IT degree with distinction

Percy Camacho Sanchez, the son of Jesus DLG. Sanchez and Ramona Camacho of As Lito, Saipan, recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Information Systems and Cybersecurity at ITT Technical Institutes, a private college in Boise, Idaho focused on technology oriented degree programs. With a 3.96 cumulative GPA, Percy was the valedictorian of his graduating class.

Sanchez was consistently on top of his class while working as a senior QA Test technician/IT specialist at Fieldsync, a leading software company that offers real-time date, fast reporting, free

integrated mobile applications and high-end enterprise features. In honoring his top achievement as a career and technical education student, Sanchez was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society of ITT Technical Institutes – Boise Charter, for which he serves as vice president of his school's charter.

In his valedictory speech at his commencement ceremony, Sanchez said: "If there is any small amount of advice that I could give to anybody that is currently in school or

considering going to school, it is this: It may seem scary to step into the unknown, but be strong and passionate about what you want to do. There will be sacrifices, there will be hardships, but ultimately there's no more satisfaction than overcoming any difficulties and rising above,

to build a new you. Dare to be great, take that leap of faith, and know that you are climbing that ladder to success."

Sanchez also acknowledged and appreciated the many people that supported him throughout his educa-

tional endeavor. "I'd like to acknowledge that I could not have made it here today without the understanding and support of my family, friends, classmates, and instructors. For it was not only myself that had to make sacrifices, but they also had to make sacrifices of their own, whether it be not seeing me to focus on my schooling or spending late nights getting projects completed on time; they were always there for me."

Sanchez also sent a very special message to his parents, Ramona and Jesus Sanchez: "Mom and Dad, I have nothing but the utmost respect for you both, for pushing me to finish school. Your teachings throughout

my upbringing have led me to be the person who stands here today, and I could not be more indebted to the patience, the sacrifices, and the hardships that you've both experienced. Because you were both unable to make it to my ceremony, please take this as my way of praising you both for everything you have ever given me. I love you both with all my heart. Mom, Dad, we did it!"

Families and friends extend their congratulations with pride and wish Sanchez many more success as he pursues a career in his chosen field and in his quest to continue climbing the ladder so that he can be a shining example of leadership for others. (PR)

PDM volunteers collect 520 lbs of trash

Paseo de Marianas Promoters and the Saipan Awaodori Team members were at it once again, cleaning up the Garapan tourist district on Wednesday last week.

The non-profit group's coor-

dinator, Sonia Siwa, said they did their cleanup on Wednesday instead of their regular Saturday schedule so that members of the Saipan Awaodori Team can help clean as well.

Wednesday's cleanup was spearheaded by eight volunteers from the Kinpachi Restaurant staff, 31 Saipan Awaodori Team members, and two parents of Awaodori members.

Compared to last month's cleanup, which raked in 1,180 lbs of trash, they had less trash to pick up this time. Siwa said they cleaned up from 9am to 11am.

The cleanup usually includes bush-cutting and trimming of the plants at the Paseo de Marianas. Trash collecting was done

near the American Memorial Park and Coral Tree Avenue.

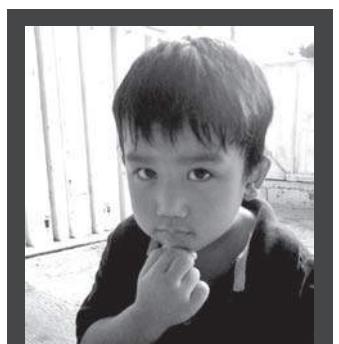
"We also cleaned out the bushes that were clogging the drainage roadside of the American Memorial Park," Siwa said.

The group's monthly cleanup collects close to or more than 1,000 lbs of trash. (Jayson Camacho)



Eight volunteers from the Kinpachi Restaurant staff are joined by 31 Saipan Awaodori Team members and two parents during the Wednesday cleanup at the Garapan tourist district.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HAPPY MOMENTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Bobby Vidal, who is celebrating his 3rd birthday! May you have more birthdays to come! Also, happy Christening to Ivy Vidal, who joined the Christian community on June 21, 2014! Welcome to the Christian world! We love you both! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

'Get a warrant' to search cellphones, justices say

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an emphatic defense of privacy in the digital age, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that police generally may not search the cellphones of people they arrest without first getting search warrants.

Cellphones are unlike anything else police may find on someone they arrest, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. They are "not just another technological convenience," he said, but ubiquitous, increasingly powerful computers that contain vast quantities of personal, sensitive information.

"With all they contain and all they may reveal, they hold for many Americans the privacies of life," Roberts declared. So the message to police about what they should do before rummaging through a cellphone's contents following an arrest is simple: "Get a warrant."

The chief justice acknowledged that barring searches

would affect law enforcement, but he said: "Privacy comes at a cost."

By ruling as it did, the court chose not to extend earlier decisions from the 1970s—when cellphone technology was not yet available—that allow police to empty a suspect's pockets and examine whatever they find to ensure officers' safety and prevent the destruction of evidence.

The Obama administration and the state of California, defending cellphone searches, said the phones should have



In this Tuesday, April 29, 2014 file photo, a Supreme Court visitor takes pictures with her cell phone outside the Supreme Court in Washington, during a hearing to consider whether police may search cell phones found on people they arrest without first getting a warrant.

Ramadan rush: Mega-rich shoppers descend on London

LONDON (AP)—Before the fast, let there be a shopping feast.

From Harrods in Knightsbridge to the glittering diamond stores in Mayfair, London has long attracted big spenders. But every year around the holy month of Ramadan, which starts this weekend, a wave of spectacularly rich Middle Eastern shoppers arrives and takes retail therapy to a whole new level—complete with an entourage of bodyguards, chauffeurs, and Gulf-registered Rolls-Royces and Ferraris flown in just for the

occasion.

Retailers call the boost in business the Ramadan Rush: A hugely lucrative and fast-growing market driven by wealthy Arabs who travel to Britain to escape the desert heat and indulge in buying luxury gifts before flying home for a month of fasting and increased religious observance. Another surge takes place during the Eid holiday, which marks the end of Ramadan.

The spike in shoppers during the summer months has been so regular and noticeable

on London's streets that some have jokingly dubbed the phenomenon the "Harrods Hajj," after the traditional Islamic pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

"London is the place in Europe where the Middle Eastern visitor shops the most. It is almost their second home," said Gordon Clark, U.K. manager at Global Blue, the Switzerland-based retail research firm. The company estimates that pre-Ramadan sales last July jumped 60 percent compared with the previous year.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-018

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 & 2015

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2014 & 2015. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than August 29, 2014.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-14-018, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Years Ending September 2014 & 2015" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on July 28, 2014. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 11, 2014 to Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 with a copy to Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

no greater protection from a search than anything else police find. But the defendants in the current cases, backed by civil libertarians, librarians and news media groups, argued that cellphones, especially smartphones, can store troves of sensitive personal information.

"By recognizing that the digital revolution has transformed our expectations of privacy, today's decision is itself revolutionary and will help to protect the privacy rights of all Ameri-

cans," said American Civil Liberties Union legal director Steven Shapiro.

Under the Constitution's Fourth Amendment, police generally need a warrant before they can conduct a search. The warrant itself must be based on "probable cause," evidence that a crime has been committed.

In the cases decided Wednesday, one defendant carried a smartphone, while the other carried an older flip phone. The police looked through both without first getting search warrants.

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DCCA/NAP-113

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 11, 2014 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR FIVE (5) YEARS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, N.A.P. DIVISION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
Secretary of DCCA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB14-DPW/SWM-112

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 11, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A GENERATOR SET FOR MARPI LANDFILL FACILITY, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAM
Secretary of Public Works

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, P&S



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

ADDENDUM No. 01

June 27, 2014

RFP14-GOV-109

Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) System
Office of the Governor

The previously advertised notice Request for Proposal ("RFP") for the Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) System Office of the Governor has been amended. The specific amendment is to extend the time of the bid submission and request for information(s). The amended in detail are as follows:

• Proposal Submission deadline:

For proposals within the CNMI, submission date is changed from 10:00 a.m. ChST, June 30, 2014 to read 9:00 a.m., ChST, Thursday, July 10, 2014. For proposers located outside of the CNMI, the Notice of Intent to submit a proposal is changed from 10:00 a.m., ChST June 30, 2014 to read 9:00 a.m., ChST July 10, 2014 and must be received is changed from July 9, 2014 to read July 21, 2014.

All other elements of the RFP remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator at 664-2371 or by fax at 664-2408. Questions are due no later than close of business day July 2, 2014.

Nation

Benghazi suspect pleads not guilty before judge

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Libyan militant accused of masterminding the deadly Benghazi attacks that have become a flashpoint in U.S. politics appeared briefly for the first time in an American courtroom on Saturday, pleading not guilty to a terrorism-related charge nearly two weeks after he was captured by military special forces.

In a 10-minute hearing held amid tight security, Ahmed Abu Khattala spoke just two words, both in Arabic. He replied “yes” when asked to swear to tell the truth and “no” when asked if he was having trouble understanding the proceeding.

Abu Khattala becomes the most recent foreign terror suspect to be prosecuted in American courts, a forum the Obama administration contends is both fairer and more efficient than the military tribunal process used at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The case is being tried in Washington despite concerns from Republicans in Congress who say he should not be entitled to the protections of the U.S. legal system.

A grand jury indictment handed up under seal Thursday and

made public Saturday accuses Abu Khattala of participating in a conspiracy to provide material support and resources to terrorists in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2012, that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

That crime is punishable by life in prison. The government said it soon would file more charges against Abu Khattala.

During his initial court appearance, the defendant listened via headphones to a translation

of the proceedings. He wore a two-piece black track suit, had a beard and long curly hair, both mostly gray, and kept his hands, which were not handcuffed, behind his back.

He looked impassively at U.S. Magistrate Judge John Faccioli for most of the hearing. Abu Khattala’s court-appointed lawyer, Michelle Peterson, entered the not guilty plea. Faccioli ordered the defendant’s continued detention, but the judge did not say where Abu Khattala would be held.

The U.S. Marshals Service said it had taken custody of Abu Khattala, who now was con-

fined to a detention facility in the capital region, ending a harried day for the Libyan.

U.S. special forces captured Abu Khattala in Libya two weeks ago, marking the first breakthrough in the investigation. Officials had been since been questioning Abu Khattala aboard a Navy amphibious transport dock ship that transported him to the United States.

He was flown early Saturday by military helicopter from a Navy ship to a National Park Service landing pad in the city’s

Anacostia neighborhood, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the transfer publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A U.S. official said Abu Khattala had been advised of his Miranda rights at some point during his trip to the United States and continued talking after that. The official wasn’t authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. The nature of those conversations wasn’t immediately clear.

Review: VA a struggling agency beset with ills

WASHINGTON (AP)—Citing “significant and chronic system failures” in the nation’s health system for veterans, a review ordered by President Barack Obama portrays the Department of Veterans Affairs as a struggling agency battling a corrosive culture of distrust, lacking in resources and ill-prepared to deal with an influx of new and older veterans with a range of medical and mental health care needs.

The scathing report by deputy White House chief of staff Rob Nabors says the Veterans Health Administration, the VA sub-agency that provides health care to about 8.8 million veterans a year, has systematically ignored warnings about its deficiencies and must be fundamentally restructured.

Obama ordered the review last month in a response to widespread reports of long delays for treatment and medical appointments and of veterans dying while on waiting lists. But Nabors’ report goes far beyond the lengthy waits and manipulated schedules raised by whistleblowers and chronicled in past internal and congressional investigations.

The review offers a series of

recommendations, including a need for more doctors, nurses and trained administrative staff—proposals that are likely to face skepticism among some congressional Republicans who have blamed the VA’s problems on mismanagement, not lack of resources.

“We know that unacceptable, systemic problems and cultural issues within our health system prevent veterans from receiving timely care,” Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson said in a statement following an Oval Office meeting Friday with Obama and Nabors. “We can and must solve these problems as we work to earn back the trust of veterans.”

While the review finds deficiencies throughout the VA, it is especially critical of the Veterans Health Administration, which has already undergone some housecleaning. Earlier this week, the VA announced that Dr. Robert L. Jesse, who has been acting undersecretary for health and head of the VHA, was resigning. Jesse has been acting undersecretary for health since May 16, when Robert Petzel resigned under pressure months before he was set to retire.

Mars ‘flying saucer’ splashes down after NASA test



This image provided by NASA shows the launch of the high-altitude balloon carrying a saucer-shaped vehicle for NASA, to test technology that could be used to land on Mars, Saturday June 28, 2014 in Kauai, Hawaii.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A saucer-shaped NASA vehicle testing new technology for Mars landings rocketed high over the Pacific on Saturday and deployed a novel inflatable braking system, but its massive parachute failed to fully unfurl as it descended to a splashdown.

Control room cheers that greeted successful steps in the complex test rapidly died as the parachute appeared to emerge tangled.

“Please inform the recovery director we have bad chute,” a mission official ordered.

NASA planned to hold a news conference on the flight Sunday.

The vehicle, called the Low Density Supersonic Decelerator, was testing methods for slowing big, heavy spacecraft hurtling into the thin Martian atmosphere.

Despite the parachute problem, “what we just saw was a

really good test,” said NASA engineer Dan Coatta with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

After taking off at 11:40 a.m. PDT from the Pacific Missile Range Facility on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, the balloon boosted the disc-shaped vehicle over the Pacific. Its rocket motor then ignited, carrying the vehicle to more than 30 miles high at supersonic speeds.

The environment that high up is similar to the thin Martian atmosphere. As the vehicle prepared to drop back to Earth, a tube around it expanded like a Hawaiian puffer fish, creating atmospheric drag to dramatically slow it down from Mach 4, or four times the speed of sound.

Then the parachute unfurled—if only partially—and the vehicle splashed down about three hours later.

Since the twin Viking spacecraft landed on the red

planet in 1976, NASA has relied on a parachute to slow landers and rovers.

But the \$150 million experimental flight tested a novel vehicle and parachute. At 110 feet in diameter, the chute was twice as big as the one that carried the 1-ton Curiosity rover through the Martian atmosphere in 2011.

Coatta said engineers won’t look at the parachute problem as a failure but as a way to learn more and apply that knowledge during future tests.

“In a way, that’s a more valuable experience for us than if everything had gone exactly according to plan,” he said.

Viewers around the world with an Internet connection followed portions of the mission in real time thanks to cameras on board the vehicle that beamed back low-resolution footage.

A ship was sent to recover a “black box” designed to separate from the vehicle and float. Outfitted with a GPS beacon,

the box contains the crucial flight data that scientists are eager to analyze.

ACROSS THE NATION

2 rescued after small plane crashes in New Jersey

NEW CASTLE, Del. (AP)—A small plane crashed in a marshy area in New Jersey near the Delaware River shortly after takeoff from an airport in Delaware Saturday, officials said. The pilot and his passenger both survived. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating after the Cessna 172 crashed in a marsh about five miles southeast of New Castle Airport at about 10:40 a.m. The pilot had reported engine problems before the crash, the FAA said.

Delaware State Police say two people were rescued from the single-engine plane and didn’t appear to have life-threatening injuries.

Child dies when Italian ice shop door falls on her

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A metal security gate detached from the facade of an Italian ice shop Saturday afternoon, killing a 3-year-old girl, police said. The security door fell on the child at a Rita’s Water Ice store in north Philadelphia at

around 4:30 p.m., according to the Philadelphia Police Department. The girl was taken to Hahnemann University Hospital and died after arrival. “Our hearts and prayers go out to the child’s family,” said Linda Duke, a spokeswoman for Rita’s Italian Ice, the shop’s parent company. “Due to the current investigation we really cannot comment about the unfortunate incident.”

Parole hearing looms in ‘Blind Faith’ murder case

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—A deadline is approaching in the parole bid of one of New Jersey’s most notorious inmates. The Asbury Park Press reports the public will have until this Wednesday to submit written comments to the state Parole Board on Robert O. Marshall’s attempt to win his freedom. The former Toms River businessman is eligible for parole this December after spending nearly three decades in prison after being convicted of arranging the murder of his wife in 1984. The case was turned into the book “Blind Faith,” and a television movie.

Asia

Seoul: North Korea fires more short-range missiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired two short-range Scud missiles into its eastern waters Sunday, a South Korean official said, in an apparent test just days after the country tested what it called new precision-guided missiles.

A South Korean military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules, said the missiles were fired from Wonsan and are presumed to be short-range Scud ballistic missiles. The official added that the military is determining what kind of Scud missiles the projectiles were. South Korean media quoted officials as saying the missiles are presumed to be Scud-C missiles, the same as ones fired in March. North Korea fired the missiles without designating no-sail zones, which the South Korean military views as provocative.

North Korea regularly test-fires missiles and artillery, both to refine its weapons and to express its anger over various developments in Seoul and Washington. North Korea has in recent days criticized alleged South Korean artillery firing drills near a disputed maritime



People watch a TV news program showing the missile launch conducted by North Korea, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, June 29, 2014.

boundary in the Yellow Sea that has been the scene of several bloody skirmishes between the rival nations in recent years. The missile displays also come

days before the leader of North Korea's only major ally, Chinese President Xi Jinping, is set to meet with South Korean President Park Geun-hye. Seoul and Beijing have long pressed North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions.

North Korea said Friday that leader Kim Jong Un guided test launches of a newly developed

precision-guided missiles, in a likely reference to three short-range projectiles South Korean officials say the North fired a day earlier.

It's not possible to tell if this assertion about the new missiles is an exaggeration, something North Korea has frequently done in the past when trumpeting its military capability, ana-

lysts say. Its army is one of the world's largest but is believed to be badly supplied and forced to use outdated equipment.

Still, the impoverished North devotes much of its scarce resources to missile and nuclear programs that threaten South Korea, Japan and tens of thousands of U.S. troops in the region. Outside analysts say North

Junta expects next Thai elections in October 2015

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's military junta will install an interim constitution next month, and elections will be held around October 2015, its leader announced Friday.

Army commander Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, who seized power in a coup last month, said the temporary constitution will allow an interim legislature and Cabinet to begin governing the country in September. He said an appointed reform council and constitution drafting committee will then work on a long-term charter to take effect July 2015.

Prayuth said in televised speech that a general election would be held around three months after the adoption of the constitution. He made no mention of a public referendum on the new charter, as was held in 2007 after an earlier coup against an elected government.

The army seized power May 22 in a bloodless coup, overthrowing a government elected by a majority of voters three years ago. Prayuth has said the coup was necessary to restore order after half a year of anti-government protests and political turmoil that left at least 28

people dead and the government paralyzed.

But since taking power, the army appears to be carrying on the fight of the anti-government protesters by mapping out a similar agenda to rewrite the constitution and institute political reforms before elections. It has quashed most dissent, threatening or arresting critics of the coup.

Prayuth said the national reform council will consider political, economic, social, environmental, judicial and other matters and give its recommendations to the constitution drafting committee.

He said the ruling junta "wants to see an election that will take place under the new constitution ... that will be free and fair, so that it can become a solid foundation for a complete Thai democracy." It wants a political system that will bring development to the country, and not conflicts as in the past, he said.

Critics charge that the army plans to make the constitution less democratic by reducing the power of elected politicians and increasing the number of appointed legislators, with the goal of allowing the traditional, conservative royalist ruling elite to retain power.

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in southern India detained two construction company directors Sunday as rescuers using gas cutters and shovels searched for workers believed buried in the rubble of a building that collapsed during monsoon rains. It was one of two weekend building collapses that killed at least 20 people.

The 12-story apartment structure the workers were building collapsed late Saturday while heavy rains and lightning were pounding the outskirts of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state. Police said 28 construction workers had been pulled out so far and the search was continuing for more than a dozen others.

Four of the workers died on

the spot and another five succumbed to injuries later in a hospital, said police officer George Fernandes.

Thirteen injured workers have been hospitalized, while six others were allowed to go home after medical attention on Saturday night, Fernandes said.

Police officer Kanan said two directors of the construction company, Prime Sristi, have been detained for questioning as authorities began investigating the cause of the collapse. The officer uses one name.

Balaguru, one of the builders, said the structure collapsed possibly due to the impact of lightning.

"Usually, once the construction gets over we install the

equipment to prevent the building from a thunder strike. It was nearing completion," the Press Trust of India news agency quoted Balaguru, who uses one name, as saying.

Nearly 300 policemen and fire service workers worked overnight, looking for survivors in the debris. They used gas cutters, iron rods and shovels to reach those trapped in the rubble.

Earlier Saturday, a four-story, 50-year-old structure toppled in an area of New Delhi inhabited by the poor. Eleven people died and one survivor was being treated in a hospital, said fire service officer Praveer Haldir.

Most homes in that part of the capital were built without per-

China says it will never seek regional hegemony

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping said Saturday his country will never seek hegemony no matter how strong it becomes, even as his neighbors worry about Beijing's actions in several territorial disputes.

Xi made the comments as he hosted leaders of India and Myanmar to commemorate 60 years since their countries agreed to principles of peaceful

coexistence.

At the same time, China is quarreling with several neighboring countries, including India, over territory and is challenging U.S. power in the region. In November, China declared an air defense identification zone over much of the East China Sea, where it is disputing several islands with Japan.

Tensions also flared up with

Vietnam after China deployed oil rigs in waters claimed by both countries, and with the Philippines, where Beijing has asserted its sovereignty in the South China Sea close to Philipine shore.

However, Xi, Myanmar President Thein Sein and Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari pledged to work to preserve regional peace.

Korea has developed a handful of crude nuclear devices and is working toward building a warhead small enough to mount on a long-range missile, although most experts say that goal may take years to achieve.

After a brief period of warming ties earlier this year, animosity has risen on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea has in recent months threatened South Korea's president, calling her a prostitute, and the South has vowed to hit North Korea hard if provoked. Pyongyang conducted a series of missile and artillery tests earlier this year in response to annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises it says it considers preparations for an invasion. North Korea also test-fired two medium-range ballistic missiles and exchanged artillery fire with South Korea near the disputed boundary in the Yellow Sea.

On Thursday, North Korea's army accused South Korea of firing shells into the North's waters near the sea boundary.

Both Koreas routinely conduct artillery drills near the maritime boundary. A North Korean artillery attack in 2010 killed four South Koreans on a frontline Yellow Sea island.

The Korean Peninsula is still technically in a state of war because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice and not a peace treaty.

mission and using substandard materials, police officer Madhur Verma said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the New Delhi collapse was triggered by construction work on an adjacent plot.

Building collapses are common in India, where high demand for housing and lax regulations have encouraged some builders to cut corners, use substandard materials or add unauthorized extra floors.

In April last year, 74 people were killed when an eight-story building being constructed illegally in the Mumbai suburb of Thane in western Maharashtra state caved in. It was the worst building collapse in the country in decades.

Xi also called for "a new architecture of Asia-Pacific security." He has said previously that such a security arrangement would include Russia and Iran and exclude the United States.

While the U.S. is not a claimant itself, it says it has a national interest in sustaining open navigation and trade through the strategic waters in the South and East China seas.

World

Bosnia marks end of Europe's violent century

By AIDA CERKEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Artists and diplomats declared a new century of peace and unity in Europe on Saturday in the city where the first two shots of World War I were fired exactly 100 years ago.

On June 28, 1914, the Austro-Hungarian crown prince Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo, where he had come to

inspect his occupying troops in the empire's eastern province.

The shots fired by Serb teenager Gavrilo Princip sparked the Great War, which was followed decades later by a second world conflict. Together the two wars cost some 80 million European their lives, ended four empires—including the Austro-Hungarian—and changed the world forever.

Visiting the assassination site Saturday, Sarajevan Daud Bajramovic, 67, said that

Iraq forces launch push for insurgent-held city

By RYAN LUCAS and QASSIM
ABDUL-ZAHRA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi government launched its biggest push yet to wrest back ground lost to Sunni militants, as soldiers backed by tanks and helicopter gunships began an offensive Saturday to retake the northern city of Tikrit.

There were conflicting reports as to how far the military advanced in its initial thrust toward Tikrit, the hometown of former dictator Saddam Hussein. Residents said militants were still in control of the city by nightfall, while Iraqi officials said troops had reached the outskirts and even pressed deep into the heart of Tikrit itself.

What was clear, however, was the government's desire to

portray the campaign as a significant step forward after two weeks of demoralizing defeats at the hands of insurgents led by the al-Qaida breakaway Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The militants' surge across much of northern and western Iraq has thrown the country into its deepest crisis since U.S. troops withdrew in December 2011, and threatens to cleave the nation in three along sectarian and ethnic lines.

Iraq's large, U.S.-trained and equipped military melted away in the face of the militant onslaught, sapping morale and public confidence in its ability to stem the tide, let alone claw back lost turf. If successful, the Tikrit operation could help restore a degree of faith in the security forces—as well as embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who is fighting to keep his job.

Pro-Russian rebels free 4 OSCE observers

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW (AP)—Pro-Russian insurgents on Saturday released a second team of observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who had been held captive since the end of May, the organization said.

OSCE spokesman Michael Bociurkiw said that the four observers were released and met by an OSCE official in the eastern city of Donetsk.

"They're in good health, they're in good spirits," he said.

OSCE lost contact with four monitors from its Donetsk team and four monitors from its Luhansk team in late May. The members of the Donetsk team were freed earlier this week.

The second release followed a European Union summit Friday, where leaders decided not to immediately impose new sanctions on Russia for destabilizing eastern Ukraine, but gave the Russian government and pro-Russian insurgents until Monday to take steps to improve the situation. The EU

in order to hold a second of silence for every person killed just during WWI in Europe, "we would have to stand silently for two years."

A century later, Sarajevans

again crowded the same street along the river where Princip fired his shots. And the Austrians were also back, but this time with music instead of military: The Vienna Philharmonic Or-

chestra was scheduled to perform works of European composers reflecting the century's catastrophic events and conclude with a symbol of unity in Europe—the joint European hymn,

Beethoven's "Ode of Joy."

The orchestra wanted to pay tribute to the history of Sarajevo, a place where religions meet, said the first violinist, Clemens Hellberg.

June 28, 1914 • Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, Bosnia



Assassination of Austrian noble lights the fuse

In 1914, Europe's geography was very different from its familiar, modern form. The continent was dominated by the Great Powers: Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire.

The assassination in Sarajevo was committed by Serbian nationalists outraged over Austria-Hungary's control of several southern Slavic territories within their empire, and particularly its 1908 annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But because of a complex series of international alliances—Britain allied with France and Russia and Germany with Austria-Hungary—the resulting mobilization of huge armies created a crisis from which the powers could not back away. The result was the first truly global war, which claimed more than 16 million lives before ending in 1918.

Detailing the assassination

- Conspirator Vaso Cubrilovic threw a bomb at the archduke's car, but it detonated under the following vehicle
- The driver sped away from the site; Cubrilovic tried to escape capture by jumping into the river, not realizing it was only 5 in. (13 cm) deep
- After a speech at the town hall, Ferdinand decided to visit the bombing's injured victims at a hospital; the car doubled back along Appel Quay
- The driver became confused and made an incorrect right turn near the Latin Bridge, then tried to back up; Princip, who had lingered in the area, stepped forward and fired two shots, hitting the archduke in the neck and his wife in the abdomen; they died soon after

July 28, 1914 • Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, setting off a chain reaction among the Great Powers

Source: Library of Congress, The Origins of War, The Map As History

Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2014 MCT

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt's army says 'virus cure' needs more tests

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's military said Saturday that a device it claimed it invented to cure AIDS and hepatitis C needs six more months of testing. The army had earlier promised to reveal the technology to the public this coming Monday after making what experts dismissed as an outlandish claim last February. At a news conference then, the head of the army's Engineering Agency said the military had produced an "astonishing, miraculous" set of inventions that could detect AIDS, hepatitis and other

viruses without taking blood samples and also purify the blood of those suffering from the diseases.

UN chief 'adopts' lion cub in Kenya

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon capped off a week of high-level U.N. discussions on the environment by "adopting" a 6-month-old lion cub Saturday. The young lioness, which was found abandoned in Nairobi National Park, will be raised by the Nairobi Animal Orphanage. Ban named the cub Tumaini, which means "hope"

in Kenya's language of Kiswahili, after his "hope that all people around the world will be able to live harmoniously with nature." "I sincerely hope this lion will grow healthy, strong and even fierce," Ban said, drawing parallels with his hopes for the environment after this week's first U.N. Environment Assembly.

Argentina's vice president charged with bribery

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's Vice President Amado Boudou has been charged with bribery and con-

ducting business incompatible with public office, adding to the woes of President Cristina Fernandez. Boudou is accused of using shell companies and secret middlemen to gain control of a company that was given contracts to print the Argentine peso, as well as material for Fernandez's election campaign. Federal judge Ariel Lijo's decision was published Friday night on the justice department's website. The judge also ordered an embargo on 200,000 pesos (\$25,000) of Boudou's property. He will remain free while he waits trial in the case along with five other defendants.

Health & Fitness

Poll: Many still struggle to pay health premiums



This March 31, 2014 file photo shows people using a phone bank to sign up for health care insurance at the business office of Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Most people who signed up under President Barack Obama's health care law rate their new insurance highly, but a substantial number are struggling with the cost, according to a poll released Thursday.

The survey from the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation provides findings that both sides in the health care debate can seize on. It's an ambitious look at people who buy their coverage individually; they're the ones most affected by the Affordable Care Act.

"The critics' view of the law as an unmitigated disaster is far

from true, but it's not what advocates might have hoped for either because many people still have concerns about affordability," said Drew Altman, CEO of the foundation, an information clearinghouse about the health care system.

The poll found that Obama's law is achieving one of its main goals by covering the uninsured. Fifty-seven percent of the 8 million people who bought a plan through the new insurance exchanges were previously uninsured.

But greater access to coverage has come at a price that's uncomfortably steep for many.

Despite the availability of generous subsidies, 4 in 10 of those who bought a plan that

meets the law's specifications said they had difficulty paying their monthly premiums. That's a sobering reality check on assertions by the Obama administration that coverage is readily affordable.

Overall, employer coverage got much better ratings in the poll than did health law plans, which are meant for self-employed people and workers without access through their jobs.

The survey looked at several groups of people in the individual health care market:

- those who bought plans in the new insurance exchanges.
- those who bought plans outside the exchanges that nonetheless complied with the law's specifications.

- people who switched from previous coverage, either because it was canceled or they found a better deal.

- those who were able to keep the plan that they had before.

Since just the start of this year, the health law has come to dominate the individual insur-

ance market.

The poll found that 68 percent of people purchasing their own coverage are enrolled in plans that comply with the law's standards. But those same consumers are divided about the law's impact. Roughly similar shares say have benefited (34 percent) as report being negatively affected (29 percent).

Among other findings:

- 7 in 10 rate their new coverage as excellent or good. That compares with 85 percent of those covered by employer plans and 85 percent of those who kept their previous individual coverage.

- 63 percent of those covered by health law plans said they are confident they will be able to pay for routine medical care. Enrollees were divided about paying for a major illness or accident, with 52 percent expressing confidence and 46 percent saying they were not too confident or not at all confident.

- Plan switchers, meaning those who found a better deal or whose previous coverage was canceled, were divided on the cost of their new premiums. Taking into account subsidies,

FDA extending comment period on e-cigarette rules

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The public will have more time to weigh in on a federal proposal to regulate electronic cigarettes and other tobacco products.

The Food and Drug Administration said Friday that the public comment period slated to end July 9 is being extended an additional 30 days to Aug. 8 after getting lots of input on how to regulate e-cigarettes. Those are battery-powered devices that heat a liquid nicotine solution, creating vapor that users inhale. The FDA also proposed extending its authority to regulate cigars, hookahs, nicotine gels and pipe tobacco.

In April, the FDA proposed banning sales of e-cigarettes to anyone under 18, adding warning labels and requiring agency approval for new products. But the FDA didn't immediately place any marketing restrictions on e-cigarette makers or ban fruit or candy flavors, which are barred for use in regular cigarettes. The agency has left the

door open to further regulations, but says it wants more evidence before it rushes into more restrictions.

In addition to mandating warning labels that say nicotine is an addictive chemical, the rules would require e-cigarette makers to disclose their products' ingredients. They would not be allowed to claim their products are safer than other tobacco products. In addition, they couldn't give out free samples or sell e-cigarettes in vending machines unless they are in a place open only to adults, such as a bar.

The agency has received more than 33,700 comments on the proposal. By comparison, it received around 176,000 comments on potential menthol cigarette regulations during a 120-day comment period.

There is no timetable for when the FDA will issue its final rules, which could be shaped by the public input the agency receives. Many believe

the final regulations will wind up in court.

The market for e-cigarettes has grown from thousands of users in 2006 to several million worldwide and reached nearly \$2 billion in sales last year. Tobacco companies have noticed that e-smokers are eating into cigarette sales, and they have jumped into the business, too.

Smokers like e-cigarettes because the nicotine-infused vapor looks like smoke but doesn't contain the thousands of chemicals, tar or odor of regular cigarettes. Some smokers use e-cigarettes as a way to quit smoking tobacco, or to cut down. Scientists haven't finished much research on e-cigarettes, and the studies that have been done have been inconclusive.

Still, some wonder whether e-cigarettes keep smokers addicted or hook new users and encourage them to move on to tobacco. And others warn that the FDA regulations could have unintended consequences.

Personal Trainer

Choosing a weight machine

Training at home with a resistance machine is a proven way to gain strength and lose weight; a comparison of machine types:



Weight stacks

Pros
Smooth, natural resistance; easy to monitor progress

Cons
Heavy and bulky; hard to move and assemble



Flexible rods or bands

Moves spring-like rods or stretches thick rubber bands

Pros
Lightweight; resistance least at start of movement

Cons
Changing resistance can feel unnatural; difficult to control as resistance increases



Body weight resistance

Sit or lie in platform and move it along tracks

Pros Easy to move and store; vary resistance just by changing track angle

Cons Resistance limited to about half of body weight; requires awkward positions

Source: American College of Sports Medicine

© 2014 MCT
Graphic: Helen Lee
McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Shia LaBeouf, ‘not famous’ but still in headlines

NEW YORK (AP)—Who can forget the time he put a paper bag on his head that read “I AM NOT FAMOUS ANYMORE”? Or when he was forced to apologize for plagiarizing parts of his short film? He then promised to retire from public life.

Now, he’s been escorted from a Broadway theater in handcuffs for allegedly yelling obscenities during a performance of “Cabaret.” The guy who insisted he’s not famous was heard screaming, “Do you know who I am?”

Witnessing Shia LaBeouf’s recent off-screen and offstage antics is getting to be like watching a slow-moving train wreck. Has he become the male equivalent of Amanda Bynes?

“Shia LaBeouf is certainly not alone in displaying unusual behavior and even immaturity,” said Jason Maloni, senior vice president at Levick, a strategic communications company that guides clients through challenging media situations. “This is just the latest incident that put him crossways with an actor’s most important constituent—his fan base as well as his fellow professionals.”

Maloni added: “Bad behavior in a public setting followed by an arrest doesn’t make for a very effective visual. Frankly, he’s been perp-walked out of Broadway, quite literally. So



Actor Shia LaBeouf walks through the media after leaving Midtown Community Court following his arrest the previous day for yelling obscenities at the Broadway show “Cabaret,” Friday, June 27, 2014, in New York. AP

list did not return a request for comment, either.

The outburst happened only a few blocks from where LaBeouf had planned to make his Broadway debut last year in a revival of Lyle Kessler’s play “Orphans,” with Alec Baldwin. He pulled out over creative disagreements and then immediately posted private messages from the show’s actors and creative team.

Now he’s accused of disrupting fellow stage actors while they’re performing. Perhaps worse, he’s become an endless punchline. Cumming tweeted that the stage manager at “Cabaret” told the actors at the top of Act 2: “This is your places call and Shia LaBeouf has left the building in handcuffs.”

LaBeouf’s latest tantrum occurs just as the film franchise that made him a star gives birth to its fourth iteration—without him. He had been the star of the first three “Transformers” films, but a fresh start was decided best for “Age of Extinction.”

he’s in some distress.”

LaBeouf was watching Alan Cumming and Michele Williams in a “Cabaret” revival on Thursday night when his latest problems began. The inside of the theater, which used to be a notorious, coke-fueled disco in the 1970s, has been reworked to look like a decadent Berlin cabaret from the 1930s,

with tiny nightclub tables and a working bar.

LaBeouf, who had paid for his ticket, was seen offering a strawberry to a woman and lighting a cigarette. He was also observed slapping Cumming’s rear as the performer walked through the seats to get onstage. Cumming didn’t react.

According to the criminal

complaint, a security guard saw LaBeouf stand up in the middle of Act 1 and “yell loudly at the actors onstage.” When LaBeouf was asked to leave, he refused, according to the complaint. “Do you know who the f--- I am? Do you know who I am?” the actor is said to have bellowed.

He was charged with five

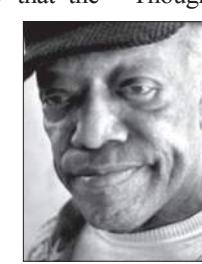
counts of disorderly conduct, criminal trespass and harassment. His next court date is July 24. After his court appearance Friday, the 28-year-old actor, wearing a ripped blue T-shirt, walked several blocks to a hotel on West 54th Street. He declined to comment. His pub-

lisher did not return a request for comment. LaBeouf’s latest tantrum occurs just as the film franchise that made him a star gives birth to its fourth iteration—without him. He had been the star of the first three “Transformers” films, but a fresh start was decided best for “Age of Extinction.”

Bobby Womack, R&B singer-songwriter, dies at 70

Bobby Womack, a colorful and highly influential R&B singer-songwriter who influenced artists from the Rolling Stones to Damon Albarn, has died. He was 70.

Womack’s publicist Sonya Kolowrat said Friday that the singer had died, but she could provide no other details.



Womack

With an incomparable voice few could match, Womack was a stirring singer and guitarist in his own right and a powerful songwriter whose hits like “Across 110th Street,” “If You Think You’re Lonely Now” and “I Wish He Didn’t Trust Me So Much” captured the imagination of future stars in rock ’n’ roll and R&B.

“He had a style that nobody else could ever capture,” longtime friend, gospel singer Candi Staton, said in a statement. “I loved him and I will miss him so, so very much.”

In a statement, musician Peter Gabriel said: “I’m very sad to learn of Bobby Womack’s death ... His songs and his voice have been so much a part of the fabric of so many musical lives. In recent years, it was great to see Richard Russell and Damon

Albarn bringing his music back into our attention. He was a soul legend. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends at this time.”

Womack’s death comes as something of a surprise. Though he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease two years ago and overcame addiction and multiple health issues, including prostate and colon cancer, recently, he seemed in good health and spirits when he performed

earlier this month at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. He told the BBC in 2013 the Alzheimer’s diagnosis came after he began having difficulty remembering his songs and the names of people he had worked with.

And there have been many. The soul singer cut a wide path through the music business as a performer and songwriter in a career that spanned seven decades.

“I must have listened to ‘Facts of Life’ for months, what an influence, what a voice, so long Bobby!!” Rod Stewart said in a statement to The Associated Press. (AP)

Talking to princess’ sis part of Lauer’s busy week

NEW YORK (AP)—Pippa Middleton told NBC News she had no idea how big her sister Kate’s 2011 marriage to Prince William would be, since she saw it as just another family wedding.

“That stopped me in my tracks, that she looked at this as, ‘Oh, my sister is getting married,’ not that, ‘Oh, I’m the maid of honor in the royal wedding,’” said NBC’s Matt Lauer, who conducted the interview.

The “Today” show host traveled to London this week to interview the princess’ sister, her first television interview. “Today” is airing Lauer’s report in two parts Monday and Tuesday.

Lauer said Friday he had talked to Middleton’s representatives about speaking to her during a just-completed charity bike ride in the United States. They said no, but that maybe she would talk later. A day after she got back, they called and told Lauer to fly to London.

Lauer said many people are interested in how Middleton seems, and what she sounds like, since they’ve never seen her interviewed.

“A lot of people are curious about how life has changed for her over these past two or three years,” he said. “Yes, there were a



This undated image released by NBC shows Matt Lauer, co-host of the “Today” show with Pippa Middleton in London.

lot of ladies here at the office that want to know what became of the dress. Does she still have it? Will she wear it again? It clearly made her famous in a lot of ways.”

He said Middleton is shy, but very down-to-earth.

“I think they are going to like her very much. I think she is going to pleasantly surprise people,” he said.

“Today” released a few excerpts from the interview, where Middleton talks about how her relationship with her sister has changed since the royal wedding, and her impressions of the United States.

It was a busy week for Lauer, who recently signed a new contract to stay at “Today,” one believed to make him the highest-

paid person in television news.

Besides flying to London for the Middleton interview, he interviewed Amy Van Dyken, an Olympian injured in an accident. He also had a live interview Thursday with General Motors CEO Mary Barra that attracted some criticism for a question he asked her about juggling work and parenthood.

Matt Lauer: His question to GM boss wasn't sexist

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Lauer has no regrets asking General Motors CEO Mary Barra about balancing work and motherhood, saying he sees it as an issue that affects all working parents regardless of their gender.



Lauer

The host of NBC's "Today" show said Friday he'd welcome the same question if it were put to him. He noted that he missed his son's 13th birthday to be in Detroit for the Barra interview.

He struck a nerve in Thursday's live interview with a question criticized as sexist—no small issue for the host of a network show where women are the bulk of the audience.

"This is one of the major conversations of our generation," Lauer, 56, told The Associated Press. "I view it very differently. I view it not as a gender issue, but as a work-life balance issue."

The question came at the end of a two-part interview primarily about GM's response to

safety issues. At first, Lauer asked about reports that one reason Barra got her job was because she could put forth a softer face and image for the company at a difficult time.

He then referenced a Forbes magazine article where Barra said she felt bad about missing her son's junior prom. The boy told her that being mom was the one job he'd hold her accountable for. Lauer asked,

"Given the pressure at General Motors, can you do both (jobs) well?"

Lauer had taken to Facebook to defend himself, explaining what inspired the question. Many people who commented on his post weren't buying it, including the author of the Forbes piece, who said she never felt compelled to ask Barra if she felt capable of doing her job.

Neera Tanden, president of the Washington-based Center for American Progress, said she'd love it if Lauer started

asking male executives the same question. Women hear it frequently, and it perpetuates a double standard when Lauer brings it up, said Tanden, who tweeted Thursday that women should stop watching Lauer.

"It's a terrible message to young women," she said.

Lauer said he definitely would ask that question of a male executive he had seen publicly questioning his ability to do it all.

"The reason I think that is so important is I am that father," he said. "As I was sitting interviewing Mary Barra about that topic, it was my son's 13th birthday, and I'm sitting in Detroit missing his becoming a teenager. I worry about that every single day: Am I being a good father? I don't think this is an unfair question."

He said he doesn't resent the criticism.

"I take the harsh criticism along with the compliments," he said. "How could I complain about the comments I get and still reserve the right to ask these questions? People have the right to say whatever they want."

3rd sex abuse lawsuit by ex-child model dropped

HONOLULU (AP)—A former aspiring model who accused several Hollywood figures of sexually abusing him as a child dropped a third lawsuit on Saturday, leaving only one suit open against "X-Men" franchise director Bryan Singer.

Lawyers for Michael Egan III said in a federal court filing in Honolulu on Saturday morning that they were dismissing a lawsuit against theater producer Gary Wayne Goddard. Egan earlier dropped lawsuits against two television executives.

Egan's lawyers did not explain why they dropped the lawsuit in their two-page filing, saying only that the matter was dismissed without prejudice,

meaning Egan can refile the lawsuit if he chooses.

Egan's lawyer in Honolulu, Mark Gallagher, declined comment and referred questions to Egan's lead attorney, Jeff Herman. Herman's spokeswoman declined comment, and Singer declined comment through a spokesman. A representative for Goddard did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment on Saturday.

Egan had accused the men of sexually abusing him as a child during trips to Hawaii in 1999 when he was 17 years old. He filed suit under an unusual state law that created a window for civil lawsuits in sex abuse cases where the statute of limitations

has passed. The men have denied the allegations, and Singer has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit against him. A hearing is set in the Singer case for Aug. 4.

Earlier this week, Egan dropped a lawsuit against former network television executive Garth Ancier. Ancier responded Friday by filing a malicious-prosecution lawsuit against Egan, saying the accusations had damaged his reputation. Ancier said he never visited the estate in Hawaii where Egan claims he was abused.

Ancier is seeking punitive damages. He claimed he has already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars defending himself.

Tartt, Goodwin awarded Carnegie medals

NEW YORK (AP)—For the first time since researching her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "The Goldfinch," Donna Tartt is back in Las Vegas.

The occasion isn't work, but another literary honor as Tartt received this year's Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in fiction Saturday.

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin was the nonfiction winner for her book on the progressive era of the early 20th century, "The Bully Pulpit."

The medals each come with a \$5,000 cash prize and were presented Saturday at the American Library Association's annual gathering in Las Vegas, where parts of "The Goldfinch" are set. The awards, founded in 2012, are managed by the library association and funded through a grant from the Carnegie Corp. of New York.



Tartt

Tartt set some of "The Goldfinch" in Las Vegas, where a 13-year-old boy from New York City contends with his neglectful father. For Tartt, the award also helps uphold a family tradition:

She is the niece and granddaughter

of librarians and as a teenager in Mississippi worked as a library aide. She wrote much of "The Goldfinch," which took a decade to complete, at the main branch of the New York Public Library.

"It took so long to write 'The Goldfinch' that I went through three different research librarians," Tartt said with a laugh during a recent telephone interview from her home in Virginia. She then recalled the importance of libraries during her childhood—whether it was the librarians who rec-

ommended books to her, or the books she recommended to patrons.

"You can really change someone's life by giving them the right book at the right time," she said. "All writers are readers before we write a word, so there's a kinship and it's very deep."

The Carnegie medal is also personal for Goodwin, who has vivid memories of borrowing books from her childhood library in Rockville Centre, New York, and reading them with her mother, who had rheumatic fever and was too weak to get books on her own. As with Tartt, libraries have been second homes for Goodwin throughout her career, from the research at the Library of Congress for "The Bully Pulpit" to her time at the Franklin Roosevelt presidential library in Hyde Park, New York, where she worked on her Pulitzer Prize-winning "No Ordinary Time."

JJ Lin, Penny Tai claim top Golden Melody honors

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Singaporean singer-songwriter JJ Lin and Malaysia's Penny Tai have been crowned best Mandarin singers at the Golden Melody Awards, Taiwan's equivalent of the Grammys.

Lin won the top male singing honor for his album "Stories Untold." Tai took the top female singing award for her album "Unexpected." She also won the best album producer award for another album at the award ceremony in Taipei on Saturday night.

It was the fourth time that Lin made it to the finals but the first time for him to win the top award. "Yes," Lin shouted as he clutched the trophy, smiling broadly. "This is how it feels to win the best male singer award."

Dressed in a red evening gown, Tai thanked the judges by bowing deeply to them. "It is completely unexpected that I should be here," Tai said, who choked up when delivering her speech.

The star-studded, glittering ceremony also named the aboriginal musician Chang Chen-yue's "I am Ayal Komod" the best Mandarin album of the year.

Chinese singer Li Ronghao took home the best new performer award for his album "Model."

A total of 123 pieces of work competed in 24 categories at the 25th Golden Melody Awards.

Let freedom ring from coast to coast this Fourth of July

CARMELLA LASPADA, FOUNDER, NO GREATER LOVE

DEAR CARMELLA: I'm glad to help. I agree that shared traditions are the glue that binds us together as a nation. So readers, on July Fourth, take a moment to quietly reflect on what this holiday is all about. Then make a joyful noise and thank God for his blessings on our country and the freedoms we enjoy today. That's the American spirit!

DEAR ABBY: My fiancee and I share a credit card that was opened under my name. I use it for gas and household or family needs. She uses it for personal things such as buying dolls for her collection.

I was informed that I will no longer be able to use the card after the last statement we got. (I had spent more than \$100 on gas for the month.) I feel I am using the card for the purpose for which it was intended. Buying things that aren't for the family but for her personal enjoyment wasn't our agreement.

I'm not sure how to approach her about this without it becoming an argument. She has a spending problem.

I recently found a job, so I contribute financially to the household. This is something that has been thrown in my face every time we talk about money. I want to see the statement so I can

DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



compare who spent how much on what, but when I ask to see it, she gets defensive.

IN THE DARK IN MICHIGAN

DEAR IN THE DARK: If the credit card is in your name, then you are responsible for anything that is purchased with it. The statements are addressed to you, and you have a right to see them. That your fiancee is refusing to show them to you is a sure sign that she has something to hide.

That's why you must take the card away from her to ensure that she isn't putting you into a financial hole you won't be able to dig yourself out of. And because the lady can't seem to control her spending, I'm urging you to think long and hard before marrying her, because after you do, you will be responsible for her debts.

From one American to another, I ask all citizens to help me revive the ringing of bells at 2 p.m. this July Fourth in celebration of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It's easy. Ring a bell, shake your keys, tap a glass or find a bell-ringing app on your smartphone. It will give our country a much-needed sense of unity and connection to our past as one nation, one people.

The Ironworkers, Sheet Metal Workers and Firefighters International Unions of the AFL-CIO, The National Cartoonists Society and Malmark Inc. have joined with No Greater Love in this special celebration of our freedom and the guardians who protect us—our troops, firefighters and police.

Please, Abby, make your millions of readers aware of this effort. As inscribed on the Liberty Bell, "Let us proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

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1 - Admin. Assistant/Waiter/Waitress: Bachelor's degree and at least 1 year's experience required.

1 - Housekeeping Cleaner: At least 3 years' experience as housekeeping cleaner in hotel environment required.

1 - Cook: At least 3 years' professional cooking experience required. Email resume to o2scuba@hanmisapian.com.

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Applicant must possess college diploma with (8) years minimum experience in this field. Must be responsible for managing, supervising, coordinating, performing and executing engineering and construction duties in planning, designing and maintenance of building structures and facilities including but not limited to buildings, power, plants, detention facilities, roads, drainage, airport buildings and infrastructure. Must also responsible in keeping the project on budget.

1 - ACCOUNTANT

Applicant must possess college diploma with at least (8) years minimum experience. Responsibilities include preparation, examination or analysis of accounting records, financial statements, or other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Develop and implement document recordkeeping and accounting systems. Prepare payrolls, compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other tax requirements.

1 - WELDER

Must have skills in welding metal components together in flat, vertical or overhead position to form, repair and fabricate metal products, cracked or broken component using arc and gas welding. Must have ability to read lay outs and blue prints, and follow work orders. Operate safety equipment and use safe work habits. At least (4) years minimum related experience in a construction and heavy equipments.

1 - HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC

Applicant must perform a full range of maintenance, repair and service activities on heavy equipment including but not limited to heavy duty trucks, excavators, graders, cranes, backhoes/loaders, tractors, bulldozers. Must have knowledge in overhauling and troubleshooting of heavy equipment and must have the ability to request and order parts. At least (4) years minimum experience.

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Napoli HR off Tanaka in 9th, Red Sox edge Yankees



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)

Mike Napoli stunned Masahiro Tanaka by hitting a solo home run with two outs in the ninth inning to lift Jon Lester and the Boston Red Sox over the New York Yankees 2-1 Saturday night.

Napoli had struck out in his previous two at-bats before lining an opposite-field drive into the first row of the seats in right. Napoli, who also homered off Tanaka at Fenway Park in late April, raised his right arm as he rounded first base.

The Red Sox won for just the third time in nine games. The victory made the defending World Series champions 37-44 at the midpoint of the season—it's the first time since 1997 that Boston has been under .500 at the halfway mark.

Lester (9-7) held the Yankees hitless until the sixth. He gave up an unearned run and five hits in eight innings, striking out six and walking two. Koji Uehara pitched a perfect ninth for his 17th save in 18 chances.

Tanaka (11-3), the top winner in the majors and AL ERA leader, allowed seven hits in a complete game, striking out eight and walking one.

Athletics 7, Marlins 6, 14 innings

In Miami, Josh Donaldson's two-out RBI single scored the go-ahead run from second base in the 14th inning to lift Oakland.

For the second game in a row, the Athletics won despite squandering a 4-0 lead. They also overcame a blown save by Sean Doolittle, whose streak of 26 2-3 scoreless innings ended when Miami tied it in the ninth on Casey McGehee's single.

Dodgers 9, Cardinals 1

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke

became the third NL pitcher to reach double digits in victories as Los Angeles had four RBI doubles during a six-run second inning.

Greinke (10-4) allowed a run and four hits over seven innings, struck out 10 and did not walk a batter as the Dodgers won for the 11th time in 15 games. The 2009 AL Cy Young Award winner is 13-2 with a 1.98 ERA in 19 starts following a Dodgers loss since signing a \$147 million, six-year contract in December 2012.

Reds 7, Giants 3, 11 innings

In San Francisco, Zack Cozart drove in two runs with a tie-breaking single as surging Cincinnati scored five times with two outs in the 11th inning to beat San Francisco.

Chris Heisey followed with a two-run triple and Billy Hamilton added an RBI double, all but sealing the Reds' fourth straight victory and seventh in eight games.

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Dayan Viciedo hit a three-run homer and Chris Sale pitched seven innings as Chicago beat Toronto.

The White Sox won back-to-back games for the first time since winning two straight over San Francisco on June 17 and 18. Chicago had dropped 11 of 14 before the consecutive victories.

Rays 5, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Desmond Jennings opened the game with the first of Tampa Bay's three home runs off Chen Wei-yin as the Rays got an impressive performance from former Orioles pitcher Erik Bedard.

Tampa Bay built a five-run lead in the fourth inning, then held off a late comeback bid to improve to 3-8 against the Orioles this season.



AP

Boston Red Sox pitcher Jon Lester delivers against the New York Yankees in the second inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 28, 2014, in New York.

Nationals 3, Cubs 0, 1st game

Nationals 7, Cubs 2, 2nd game

In Chicago, Adam LaRoche and Wilson Ramos homered, and Blake Treinen earned his first major league win as Washington completed a sweep of a day-night doubleheader.

The Nationals tagged Jeff Samardzija (2-7) for six runs over five innings to salvage a four-game series split.

LaRoche led off the second with a long drive to right for his 11th homer, and Ramos connected to start the fifth, sparking a four-run rally that made it 6-2.

Making his fifth major league start, Treinen (1-3) allowed

two runs and four hits in five innings. The right-hander was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse as the 26th man on the roster for the doubleheader.

Gio Gonzalez pitched two-hit ball over seven innings for Washington in the first game.

Gonzalez (5-4) had his way with one of the weakest lineups in the majors, outperforming Dallas Beeler in the right-hander's major league debut.

Tigers 4, Astros 3

In Houston, Ian Kinsler hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning to rally Detroit past Houston after Max Scherzer struck out a season-high 13 batters.

The Tigers trailed by one before Kinsler connected off Jerome Williams (1-4) for a 4-2 lead. Kinsler also had a double in his seventh straight multihit game and 33rd this season.

Braves 10, Phillies 3, 1st game

Braves 5, Phillies 1, 2nd game

In Philadelphia, Ryan Doumit homered and Tommy La Stella had two doubles and drove in a pair of runs in the second game to lead Atlanta to a doubleheader sweep of Philadelphia.

Chris Johnson had three hits with an RBI and Justin Upton had two hits and drove in a run

for the Braves, who have won five of six.

Cameron Rupp had two hits with a double for the Phillies, who have lost seven of nine.

David Hale (3-2) allowed one run on four hits with three strikeouts and a walk in five innings.

The Phillies called up Sean O'Sullivan (0-1) from Triple-A Lehigh Valley for a spot start and the right-hander lasted 5 2-3 innings, giving up four runs on eight hits.

Upton had two hits and three RBIs in the first game as Atlanta was helped by two straight errors by Philadelphia's Ryan Howard.

Angels 6, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, David Freese drove in three runs and Albert Pujols had two RBIs as Los Angeles beat Kansas City after a long rain delay for its seventh victory in eight games.

The first rain delay, after the first inning, lasted only 7 minutes. But the second one, after the fourth, went on for 3 hours, 58 minutes. The game didn't end until nearly 7 hours after it started.

Mets 5, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Jonathon Niese extended his streak of solid starts with six gritty innings and rookie Eric Campbell had three hits while subbing for injured star third baseman David Wright as New York spoiled Gerrit Cole's return from the disabled list.

Niese (5-4) gave up three runs and scattered seven hits. It was his 20th straight outing without allowing more than three runs, dating to last season. Jenrry Mejia pitched a perfect ninth for his eighth save.

Latest Slam loss for Williams comes at Wimbledon

L O N D O N (AP)

As Serena Williams began to fall behind in what would become her earliest Wimbledon exit in nearly a decade, her coach could tell something was awry.

Not the so-so serving. Or the bad backhands. This was a larger problem.

"Right now, she doesn't have her usual ability to respond and turn matches around," said Patrick Mouratoglou, who has worked with Williams since 2012. "It was obvious when she trailed 3-0 in the second set. Nothing happened."

Unable to get back on track once she no longer had control of the match, five-time Wimbledon champion Williams lost to 25th-seeded Alize Cornet of France 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Saturday in the third round, the latest

in a recent series of surprising Grand Slam defeats.

"If I'm not playing a great, great match, these girls, when they play me, they play as if they're on the ATP Tour," Williams said, rolling her eyes.

She hadn't left Wimbledon so soon since 2005, also beaten in the third round. The No. 1-ranked and top-seeded

Williams owns 17 Grand Slam titles, one fewer than Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, but has departed before the quarterfinals at four of the past five majors. There were fourth-round losses at Wimbledon last year and the Australian Open in January, and a second-round loss at the French Open in May.

"It might be a bit premature to talk about her decline, but when she plays someone who finds the right tactics, she looks a bit lost on the court," Cornet said.

"In my opinion, there are more and more players understanding how to play her."

Cornet also beat the 32-year-old American at the Dubai Championships in February, and watched video clips of that triumph before playing Saturday.

"I just knew that I could do it, because I did it once," Cornet said.

Still, this result was rather unexpected, given that Cornet never had been past the third round at Wimbledon, and only once before reached a major's fourth round.

"I cannot say that I played my best tennis today, really," Cornet said.

Perhaps, but it was good enough. On match point, after one last drop shot drew a netted response from Williams, Cornet pounded a fist on her chest, hopped around Court 1, then

knelt to kiss the turf.

"It's very symbolic, because it means, 'Now I love you grass, and I didn't before,'" said Cornet, who had been 0-13 against top-20 opponents at majors.

Saturday's match was halted in the third game because of showers. When they returned about 4 1/2 hours later—"the rain delay killed me a little bit," Cornet said—Williams was terrific, reeling off five games to grab the first set.

Then everything changed, because Williams couldn't find the mark. She finished with 29 unforced errors, 11 more than Cornet. Two particular strokes let Williams down: Her serve, with seven double-faults and five breaks; and her backhand, with 12 unforced errors.

"I don't really know what I did wrong," said a blank-faced Williams, whose sister Venus lost

Friday. "Usually I do. Usually I know I did this, this, and that."

It was by far the most significant outcome on a day full of starts and stops.

Three other past Wimbledon champions won on Centre Court, where the roof was closed and soccer star David Beckham was in the Royal Box: Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Maria Sharapova.

For his third match in a row, Nadal dropped the first set, this time beating 63rd-ranked Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

"All his shots just started to be much more hard, powerful and more aggressive," Kukushkin said. "It was like a different player."

Sharapova trailed 3-1, then won the next 11 games to top 44th-ranked Alison Riske of the United States 6-3, 6-0.

Wade set to become free agent; Bosh deciding



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade has made his choice. Chris Bosh is still mulling his.

Either way, free agency for the Miami Heat is shaping up as an absolute circus.

Wade told the Heat on Saturday that he is opting out of the final two years and nearly \$42 million in his contract, and will become a free agent on Tuesday—the same decision that LeBron James revealed earlier in the week.

Also Saturday, Udonis Haslem told the Heat that he will not pick up his \$4.6 million option for next season. But Bosh is still weighing his options, agent Henry Thomas told The Associated Press, after a miscommunication earlier in the day suggested that the forward was already sold on the idea of opting out.

“Chris has not decided yet,” Thomas told AP early Saturday evening.

Strange as it may sound, the decisions by James and now Wade and Haslem are considered good for the Heat, since those three moves alone free up about \$45 million in what would have been salary Miami was committed to paying next season. If Bosh opts out, that figure goes to \$66 million, and the idea of not having that locked into the books gives Miami tons of flexibility to lure their stars back into new deals—plus have enough money left over to make additional roster upgrades.

“Today we were notified of Dwyane’s intention to opt-out of his contract and Udonis’ intention to not opt into his contract, making both players free agents,” Heat President Pat Riley said. “Dwyane has been the cornerstone of our organization for over a decade, and we hope

he remains a part of the Heat family for life. Udonis has been the heartbeat of this team for 11 years. He has sacrificed countless times to make this organization successful, and he is the epitome of what this organization stands for.

“We look forward to meeting with Dwyane and Udonis and their agent in the coming days to discuss our future together.”

So now, all eyes turn to Bosh, who was part of the much-celebrated move Miami made four years ago to team up with James and Wade with the Heat. They’ve been together for four years, and have been to the NBA Finals in each, winning the title twice.

“We want this to work out and I think we’ll find a way to get it done,” Bosh told The Associated Press shortly after the Heat fell in the NBA Finals earlier this month to the San Antonio Spurs.

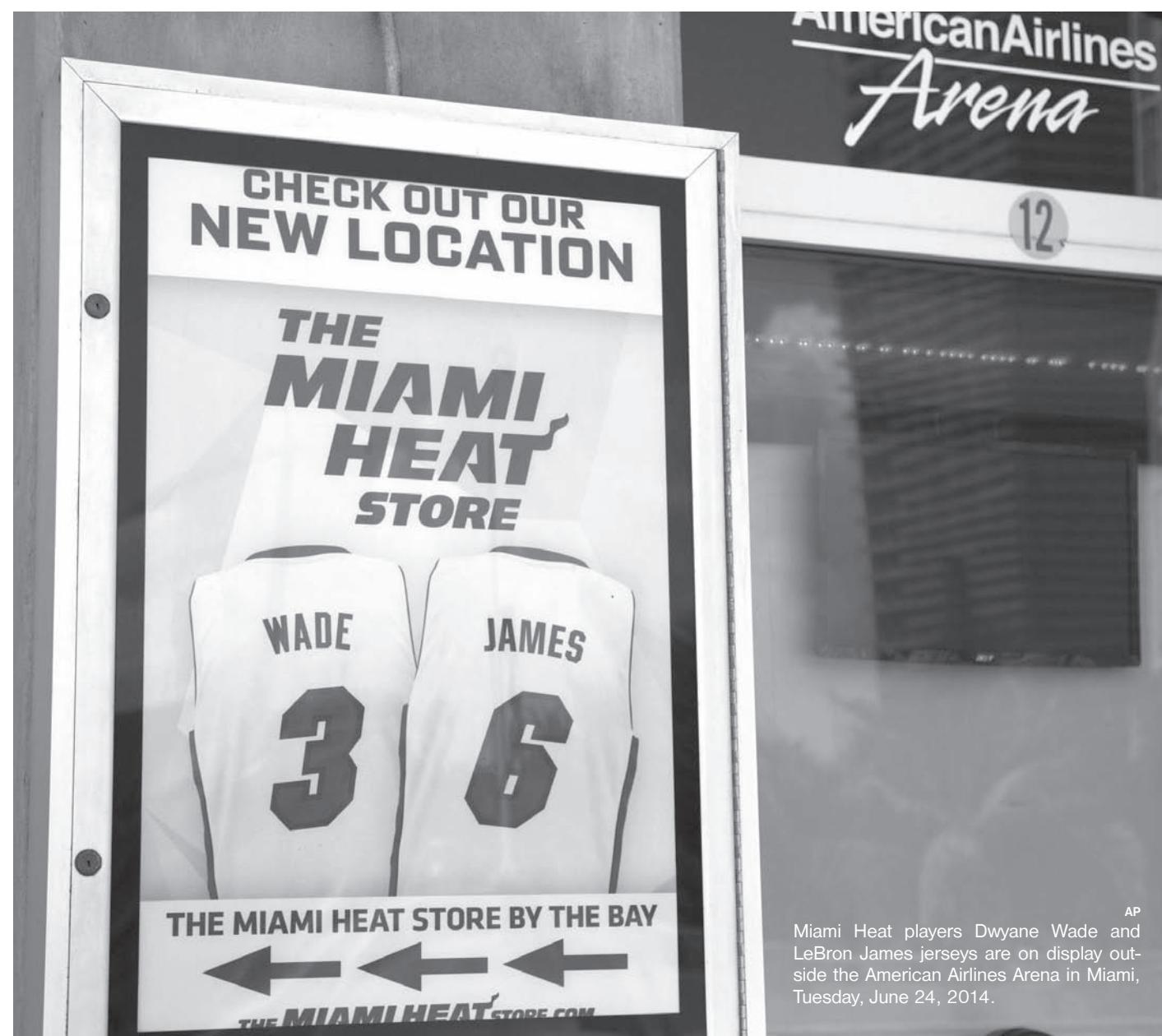
Haslem expressed the same sentiment.

“We all want the same thing around here,” Haslem said at the end of the season.

Regardless of what Bosh decides, midnight Tuesday—the start of free agent frenzy—will be busy for Miami. James and Wade could be wooed by plenty of suitors. James has already been mentioned as a target of the Los Angeles Clippers, the Chicago Bulls, the Houston Rockets—and, of course, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the team for whom he spent his first seven seasons.

But things are already looking good for Miami, which got the rights to former Connecticut guard Shabazz Napier on draft night—and Napier just happened to be James’ favorite player in the draft.

Wade, James and Bosh all had deals with an option to become free agents either this



AP
Miami Heat players Dwyane Wade and LeBron James jerseys are on display outside the American Airlines Arena in Miami, Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

summer or next. There’s obviously no guarantee that all or any would return to the Heat now, but it’s also hard to envision all three going their separate ways after making four trips to the NBA Finals together and winning two championships.

“We’ve got a lot of room for flexibility,” Riley said as the offseason was starting. “There is a tremendous amount of flexibility depending on what

happens. We’re ready. Now, do I feel any pressure? No, I don’t. I don’t feel any pressure at all. I’m going to do the best job that I can do and we will all do the best job we can do. I don’t think we have to recruit Chris and LeBron and Dwyane again.

“I’m not dropping championship rings on the table for those guys,” Riley added, referring to his famous recruiting trick from 2010. “They can

drop their own.”

Wade took a considerable amount of criticism this past season, first for missing 28 regular-season games—largely because of what the Heat called a maintenance program for his long-problematic knees—and then for struggling in the NBA Finals. Wade averaged 24.3 points in his first 11 seasons and is unquestionably the most accomplished player in Heat history, leading the franchise’s

all-time lists in several categories.

Riley calls Wade “an icon” and remains sold on his value to a championship team, though acknowledges that at 32 and with plenty of injuries in his past, some continued evolution to his game—and perhaps his role—could be needed.

“He does have pain but he doesn’t have the debilitating injury that could end his career,” Riley said.

Wiggins is No. 1, Napier to Miami in NBA draft

NEW YORK (AP)—The celebrations stretched from north of the border to South Florida.

Andrew Wiggins was the No. 1 pick by Cleveland, the second straight year a Canadian led off the NBA draft. Later Thursday, the Miami Heat acquired the rights to Shabazz Napier, who comes to the league with LeBron James’ endorsement.

In one of the deepest drafts in years, plenty of teams got what they wanted.

“I mean, we’re all good,” said Jabari Parker, who went second to Milwaukee. “We’re all great players.”

And some of the rookies are even recruiters.

Wiggins was asked what he would say to James about playing in Cleveland. Napier,

from national champion Connecticut, was aware that James had posted on Twitter that he is a fan of the Huskies’ guard, so perhaps that could be the key to keeping him in Miami.

“I would hope so,” Napier said. “He’s one of the best players in the world. So if me going there helps him come back, it just betters our chances of being a complete team.”

Cleveland’s progress depends on Wiggins, the Kansas freshman they hope turns out better than fellow Canadian Anthony Bennett.

Thrilled to go first and even happier when Jayhawks teammate Joel Embiid went two picks later, Wiggins beamed in his black tuxedo jacket with a white floral pattern.

“A thousand thoughts are going through my head right

now,” Wiggins said. “It’s a dream come true.”

Bennett was injured last summer, came into the season out of shape and made no impact, one of the reasons the Cavs were back in this spot again.

But Wiggins seems a much more ready product after averaging a Kansas freshman record 17.1 points. He might have ended up as the top pick anyway, but became the best option for the Cavs when Embiid had a stress fracture in his right foot shortly before the draft.

After making Canada the only country besides the U.S. to have consecutive No. 1 picks, Wiggins slipped on a maroon Cleveland hat, hugged his supporters and went on stage to shake hands with

Commissioner Adam Silver, who was calling the first round for the first time since replacing David Stern.

Milwaukee followed with Parker, whom some consider the more NBA-ready player after an All-American freshman season for Duke. Playing in Milwaukee puts him near his family in Chicago.

“I’m just very optimistic,” Parker said. “If it was 1, 2, put me at 60, just getting that opportunity, getting that chance of being in the NBA.”

Embiid went third to Philadelphia, drawing loud cheers from the many red-and-blue dressed 76ers fans who made the trip to Barclays Center in Brooklyn, as well as from Philadelphia guard Michael Carter-Williams, last season’s Rookie of the Year who was

sitting on the arena floor level.

The 76ers had two top-10 picks and could afford to take a chance on Embiid, the big man who may have ended up the top prize despite his lone season at Kansas ending early because of a bad back. But once the foot injury popped up during workouts, leaving his NBA debut uncertain after surgery, the two teams at the top passed.

“He worked so hard,” Wiggins said. “He didn’t let nothing get to him. He always stayed motivated. So I’m just proud. It’s a proud moment for Kansas.”

Top-level talent stretched toward the bottom of the lottery and perhaps beyond. Arizona forward Aaron Gordon went fourth to Orlando, which also had two picks, followed

by Australian guard Dante Exum to Utah.

Then came two teams not used to picking so high: The Boston Celtics took Oklahoma State guard Marcus Smart, with the rival Los Angeles Lakers following at No. 7 with Kentucky forward Julius Randle.

The highlight of the night came just after the lottery, when Silver welcomed Baylor’s Isaiah Austin to the stage for an emotional tribute. Austin had to end his playing career after being diagnosed with Marfan syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects the heart.

Wearing a blue hat with the NBA logo, Austin rose for a standing ovation after Silver announced that: “The NBA selects Isaiah Austin.”

TBK

From Page 28

with Devero hitting a fastbreak layup and Quitugua splitting his charities.

Quitugua faltered on his second free throw and missed another chance to move ahead when Raymond Velasco took a hurried triple with still 38.4 seconds left in the game and 20 seconds on their shot clock. San Antonio got the possession and Jaymark De Guzman drew a foul in the pain after a counter steal on Quitugua. De Guzman went on to muff the two important free throws, but fortunately Alegre hustled for the ball and forced a jump on Quitugua. San Antonio regained the leather with the possession arrow pointed at its side to have another chance to gain more cushion, however De Guzman committed another booboo. His short pass to Mendoza from the left key outside the 3-point area was telegraphed by Nate Mateo, who went all the way for the fastbreak layup that gave TBK the lead, 77-76, 26.3 seconds remaining on the clock.

TBK sued for time after wrestling back the driver's seat, but failed to prevent Aranda from converting the go-ahead drive at the resumption of the play. However, Devero went on to bail out TBK in the end with his pull-up jumper.

Meanwhile, Island Manpower cruised to the finals with a 92-65 domination of the Shocker Nation in the first semis match.

Island Manpower led right at the get-go and kept its safe distance against Shocker Nation in the last three quarters. It led in the first period, 19-11, with six Island Manpower players making it to the board, and stretched the advantage to 16 at halftime, 45-29, as it continued to distribute the wealth in the second frame.

Shocker Nation never made a big comeback in the second half, allowing Island Manpower to notch the first finals berth with ease. Island Manpower had four players finishing in double figures in the lopsided victory, while four others combined for 27 points. Only three players had twin digits for Shocker Nation and the rest picked up garbage points.

The Island Manpower-TBK winner-take-all finals was set for last night and results were unavailable at press time.

First Game

Island Manpower 92 – Bisana 15, Tabora 14, Norita 11, Pangelinan 10, Lizama 8, Tereyego 8, White 5, Tobias 4.

Shocker Nation 65 – Sartuno 13, Vertudez 11, De Leon 11, Villanueva 8, Dela Cruz 7, Palacios 4, Cadiang 4, Demapan 4, Deleon Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-

Reed builds 2-shot lead at Congressional

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Patrick Reed is not interested in talking about being top five in the world.

He only cares about PGA Tour victory No. 4.

Reed, who turned off some of his peers when he won at Doral and said he was among the top five players in the world, held it together Saturday at steamy Congressional for an even-par 71 to build a two-shot lead in the Quicken Loans National.

As if Congressional wasn't difficult, the rest of the field now has to chase a guy who has won all three previous PGA Tour events when he had at least a share of the lead going into the final round.

On a day when making pars often meant moving forward, Reed overcame three bogeys in a seven-hole stretch by playing the last five holes at 1 under for

11, 45-29, 65-45, 92-65.

Second Game

TBK 79 – I. Devero 23, Velasco 13, C. Devero 12, Quitugua 9, Mateo 8, Santos 4.

San Antonio 78 – De Guzman 15, Alegre 14, Aranda 13, Barbo 8, Factor 8, Espinosa 6, Arciaga 6, Mendoza 4, Dela Rosa 1.

Scoring by quarters: 12-26, 36-42, 62-54, 79-78.

a two-shot margin over Seung-yul Noh, Freddie Jacobson and Marc Leishman.

"You can't get ahead of yourself," Reed said. "If you think about having the lead or if you think about what you're going to do coming down 18, you're going to lose focus on the rest of the holes."

Reed was at 6-under 207.

The final round will have a player in the last group with a red shirt, only it won't be tournament host Tiger Woods, who missed the cut. Reed has been wearing a red shirt and black pants on Sunday to pattern himself after Woods. He also cited Woods when asked which player was his idol in being confident.

Reed took that to a new level when he won at Doral and said he felt he was among the top five in the world. He currently is No. 29.

"You can't play this game with lack of confidence," Reed said. "So just one of those things that, you know, we're all trying to strive for the same thing, and some guys get there and that's all we're trying to do."

Dating to his first PGA Tour win at the Wyndham Championship last August, the only top 10s Reed has had have been

explained to them that what is more important than this tournament is the reputation that THFC will leave in Guam. Coaches and players from other teams commented THFC as a good team, has high spirit, and determined," the technical director added.

Angeles said his players learned a lot from the tournament and several of them were happy to experience what it is like to play in an artificial turf for the first time.

"The heat and the artificial turf were the biggest challenges for my boys, but overall, the team

had five goals," he added. When asked to assess the overall performance of his team's first off-island tournament, Angeles mentioned the comments he got from Guam football officials.

"We received a lot of positive comments from people from Guam and GFA. Rob de Guzman, GFA youth administrator,

texted me after our first game,

saying 'tell your boys they

were impressive, hydrate, get

some rest, and bring that same

attitude tomorrow! Respect,'" Angeles said.

"I read this to the boys and

they were the biggest challenges for my boys, but overall, the team

did well throughout the tournament.

This tournament molded the team stronger and closer to each other," he added.

With its notable performance

in the Guam tournament, Tan Holdings FC received another invitation to play in a bigger competition in Saipan's neighbor island.

"Tan Holdings FC U18 received an invitation to play in

bigger tournament in Guam this December. Teams from Philip-

pines will also participate. Joe Cepeda of Islanders also spoke to me that he will also include



victories. He attributes his sporadic play to his wife having their first child last month.

Now, Reed says his life is becoming settled and his game is rounding into shape.

Noh finished off his 5-under 66—the best score of the third round—about the time the leaders went off. He was at 4-under 209, which looked better by the hour.

Jacobson made four birdies in his opening eight holes to reach 8 under, only to take double bogey on the 11th hole and a sloppy bogey on the par-5 16th hole. He wound up with a 71. Leishman was still only one shot behind until he failed to get up-and-down for par on the 17th and fell to a 73.

"At the start of the day, we probably knew that anything under par was going to be a really good score," Leishman said. "I actually said to my caddie, 'It feels a bit like a U.S. Open' because there were a few pins that you really didn't have a chance to get at. But I think that's good. It's a tough golf course. It's long. If you're not in the fairway, you have no chance."

Reed was not in the fairway on two holes where he made birdie, and he managed to pull it off.

In deep rough to the right of the fourth fairway, he was 169 yards away and decided to smash a 9-iron to clear the bunker instead of trying a soft 8-iron. It worked out perfectly. The ball bounded past the hole and up a slope, and slowly rolled back to within inches of the cup.

"I thought there was about a 3 percent chance I could cover that bunker, and I ended up being perfect," Reed said. "It was nice whenever I saw it roll up the hill and I saw it come back down because I thought, 'All right, we have about 5, 7 feet for birdie.' Didn't know it was a couple inches, which was nice."

Oliver Goss of Australia, the U.S. Amateur runner-up last year making his second pro start, was part of a four-way tie for the lead going into the third round. He was still in the mix until a three-putt from 10 feet for double bogey on No. 11. He had a 76, though he was still only five shots behind.

Justin Rose was within two shots of the lead after a hot start, only to make bogey on the par-5 ninth and a double bogey on the 11th hole. He battled back with a pair of late birdies, only to drop another shot on the 18th for a 71. Even so, he was only three shots behind.

TAN

From Page 28

the GFA training facility in Harmon the next day to complete their assignment in the invitational tournament and bowed to league champion Wings, 0-6. Tan Holdings' FC went on to place third in the competition with its 0-2-1 win-draw-loss record. Wings earned a 3-0-0 card, the Islanders finished with a 1-1-1 slate, while the Strykers was last with its 0-1-1 mark.

The champion team and the top individual performers were

recognized at the awards ceremony. Galarion was one of the awardees, earning the Golden Glove plum.

"Our keeper, Joshua Galarion received the Golden Glove award. Though he did not have the best record, the committee voted for him for saving two penalty kicks during our game against Strykers FC. We could have lost that game if it were not for Josh's saves," Angeles said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"Sean Perez finished second in the Golden Boot race with his four goals. The Golden Boot awardee

ty of chances to force an upset win—none closer than Mauricio Pinilla's powerful shot into the crossbar in the last moments of extra time.

David Luiz for Brazil and Alexis Sanchez for Chile scored first half goals.

Shops were closed and usually busy roads were quiet as the country of almost 200 million urged its revered Selecao to victory and ever closer to a sixth World Cup title—a trophy they desperately want to collect on home soil.

"There are only three steps left and I still want to be back here to give another interview, with Brazil partying," Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar said after his player-of-the-match performance, including two crucial saves at the start of the shootout that ensured some redemption for a costly error in South Africa four years ago.

First things first. Brazil next faces a Colombia team that

has won all four of its matches so and is being led by the increasingly confident playmaker Rodriguez, who scored once in each half against Uruguay—which was missing its star striker Luis Suarez—to lift his tournament tally to five goals.

Suarez was banished from the World Cup for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini in the 1-0 group-stage win that secured Uruguay's place in the knockout rounds.

Diego Forlan started in place of Suarez—who claimed he accidentally made contact with Chiellini's shoulder and has appealed against his ban of four months from football and nine international matches—but couldn't reproduce anything like the form that earned him the 2010 World Cup player of the tournament award.

Two early contenders for that accolade in 2014 underlined their importance to their teams and set up an intriguing

showdown at Fortaleza on Friday. Baby-faced Rodriguez has played with maturity beyond his 22 years to fill the void left by injured striker Radamel Falcao, not just creating opportunities but also converting them for Colombia.

He deftly controlled a cross with his chest and volleyed in from long range to score the opener and put the Uruguayans back on their heels, but said "I think now the toughest is coming up."

Neymar is trying to live up to the hype in Brazil, coming through in the big moments. He scored four goals in the group stage and, although he wasn't at his best against Chile, he found the net after his stuttering run-up to the penalty spot during the shootout. His kick gave Brazil a 3-2 buffer, proving decisive when Gonzalo Jara's final attempt for Chile hit the post, sparking raucous celebrations on the field and in the

yellow-washed crowd in Belo Horizonte.

It was just one of the moments that Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli didn't see coming, and he later reflected on Pinalia's late strike that could have changed the complexion of the tournament.

"The near goal has been very hard for us to take," he said. "If it had gone in, it would have been a historic moment for Chile."

The packed fan fests in Rio's Copacabana beach and at Sao Paulo were packed with screaming, flag-waving Brazilians. At the Maracana, Brazil fans already inside the stadium for the Colombia-Uruguay match erupted into cheers as they followed the win on TVs. The Maracana was also a sea of yellow, but this time it was tens of thousands of Colombian fans.

"Congratulations to all the Colombian people," coach Jose Pekerman said. "The people in Colombia deserve this."

MESSI

From Page 28

the shape of a heart with his thumbs and fingers loftily raised above his head.

The 22-year-old striker had just slotted the winning penalty as Brazil beat Chile 3-2 in a dramatic shootout after the score was locked 1-1 at the end of extra time, setting the World Cup hosts on course for a showdown against a James Rodriguez-inspired Colombia lineup that beat Uruguay 2-0 later Saturday to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.

As Chile's last penalty hit the post, it seemed as though the population of Brazil breathed a collective sigh of relief that its beloved team was still in the World Cup.

While it was a heartstopper for Brazil, which has spent billions to host football's marquee tournament, it was a heartbreaker for Chile, which created plen-

Tan Holdings FC on his team if the Islanders will go to Philippines for a tournament," said Angeles, who thanked Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Fiesta Resort Guam, Gatorade, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Kuraudia Guam for supporting their trip.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**MLB STANDINGS****AMERICAN LEAGUE****East Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	45	38	.542	—
Baltimore	42	38	.525	1½
New York	41	38	.519	2
Boston	37	44	.457	7
Tampa Bay	34	49	.410	11

Central Division

Detroit	44	33	.571	—
Kansas City	41	39	.513	4½
Cleveland	39	41	.488	6½
Chicago	38	44	.463	8½
Minnesota	36	43	.456	9

West Division

Oakland	50	30	.625	—

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The Week in Sports

CNMI athletes test grit in off-island tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week was the time for CNMI athletes to test their skills in competitions outside the Commonwealth.

In athletics, the CNMI's Zarinae Sapong, Brandon Phillip, and Beo Ngirchongor joined the 2014 Oceania Area Championships in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Phillip raced in both the junior men's 100m and senior 100m runs and survived the qualifying heat of the first, while Sapong and Ngirchongor competed in the junior 400m and senior 400m races, respectively.

In football, Tan Holdings FC participated in the 2014 Marianas U18 Invitational Tournament in Guam. The Jersh Angeles-coached squad drew the Islands and Strykers in their first two games on the artificial turf of the Guam Football Association training facility before losing to

league champion Wings in their last match.

Tan Holdings FC finished third in the competition, while its goalkeeper Joshua Galarion brought home the Golden Glove award. Sean Perez nearly gave the visiting team its second individual plum when he placed second in the Golden Boot award battle after scoring four goals against the five of the winner from Wings.

In Little League, four CNMI teams are now in the Philippines for the 2014 Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament. The CNMI Little League All-Stars first left Saipan, while their counterparts in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions followed suit. Games in the regional event started over the weekend and results were unavailable at press time.

Back on Saipan, Ali'i ruled the DLX/IT&E caging after beating I Love Saipan in the

finals, 74-65. Kobee Mendoza and Raymond Velasco towed Ali'i to the title win and were named regular season and Finals MVP, respectively.

Still in basketball, the DL Corp. caging was down to two teams with Island Manpower and TBK Mechanics surviving

the playoffs. Island Manpower downed Shocker Nation in the first semis match last Thursday, while TBK Mechanics ousted the then undefeated San Antonio in the second match at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Gillette gym is also the

venue for the Tan Holdings caging and after the second week of action, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Kanoa Resort remained unscathed.

Meanwhile, the 21st Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run was held last week, too with

Jesse James and Lorie Hutchinson emerging as the top male and female finisher in the 7K race. In the 3K, Pacific Islands Club's Toshi Satake was the fastest in the men's division, while 10-year-old Conatsu Kaga reigned supreme in the women's category.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tan Holdings FC players and officials pose for a photo at the departure area of the Saipan International Airport before leaving for Guam to compete in the 2014 Marianas U18 Invitational Tournament.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Saipan Tribune/RMS defender tries to tap the ball away from a Shirley's Coffee Shop player during their game in the Tan Holdings caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong, left, poses with other flag bearers of Micronesian countries during the opening ceremony of the 2014 Oceania Area Championships last week in Cook Islands.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two youth runners rush to the finish line of last week's 21st Annual Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI players pose for a photo while waiting for the start of the opening ceremony in the 2014 Asia Pacific Middle East Regional Tournament being held in the Philippines.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

San Antonio's Erick Dela Rosa goes up for a shot against two TBK Mechanics defenders during their semis game in the DL Corp. caging last Thursday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ali'i's Raymond Velasco, left, challenges the short jumper of I Love Saipan's White Capalad during the third quarter of their title game in the DLX/IT&E caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



Napoli HR off
Tanaka in 9th,
Red Sox edge
Yankees
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



Wade set to
become free
agent; Bosh
deciding
PAGE 25

28 MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TBK vs Island Manpower in finals



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



TBK Mechanics nosed out San Antonio, 79-78, in the last semis game in the 2014 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League last Thursday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium to set a finals date against Island Manpower.

Ivan Devero made the dagger, a 15-foot jumper from the left key against San Antonio's Bryle Alegre in the closing seconds of the exciting battle for the last finals seat. After Devero's back-breaking basket, San Antonio was left with 1.6 seconds to set up a shot, but Darwin Barbo failed to counter with a game-saving basket, as he was too deep under the basket and was fully covered in the baseline by TBK's Jake Quitugua with the ball hitting the lower part of the backboard as time expired.

Devero's big jumper came after Jack Aranda put San Antonio on top with his drive from the left wing and the ball rolling back into the basket, 7.9 second left on the clock. With no timeout left, TBK rushed the inbound play with Devero getting the pass and streaking to their frontcourt, as San Antonio's defense had not been set. Devero went on to capitalize on San

Antonio's defensive lapse, as he stopped and popped for the jumper against Alegre, who was the last line on defense, but was a few steps away from Devero, giving the TBK gunner a good look at the basket.

TBK's 1-point win against San Antonio was a fitting finale of the seesaw battle, which saw the latter taking a 26-12 lead. A 30-10 scoring run in the second canto swung the lead to TBK at the break, 36-42, but San Antonio grabbed it back after the third, 62-54. San Antonio kept the upper hand in the first half of the final canto, but TBK recovered and forced the last deadlock, 72-all, going into the last three minutes of the match. Back-to-back baskets from Koo-bee Mendoza and Prince Factor off the former's assists helped San Antonio regain the lead, but TBK hung in there, 75-76.

See TBK on Page 26

Brazil squeaks past Chile, next up is Colombia



By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Neymar pointed his right index finger in the air and then formed

See BRAZIL on Page 26



Brazil's Neymar forms a heart with his hands as he leaves the pitch after the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Brazil and Chile at the Mineirao Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Saturday, June 28, 2014. Brazil won 3-2 on penalties after the match ended 1-1 draw after extra-time.

Tan Holdings FC leaves mark in Guam tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Tan Holdings FC earned a good impression from the Guam football community after completing its stint in the 2014 Marianas U18 Invitational Tournament more than a week ago.

Tan Holdings FC forced draws in its first two matches and suffered only one loss at the hands of eventual champion Wings FC. The visiting squad was composed of Emmanuel Aniana, Dale Ballesteros, Jonassar Dapiawen, James David, Kenneth Domingo, Michael Fidelino, Joshua Galarion, Cosmos Kim, Hobin Lee, Yoshi Mafnas, Marc Mora, Kautong Omengkar, Sean Perez, Reniel and Ryan Relucio, and Mareko Tekopua. Tan Holdings FC technical director Jershwin Angeles coached the team, while

club president Ariel Mariano and general secretary Ador Dimaano joined the squad in Guam.

Angeles' wards first challenged the Islanders, who finished second in Guam Football Association's U18 league, last June 20. Mafnas and Perez scored one goal each in Tan Holdings FC's opener to have a standoff against the Islanders.

The following day, the visiting team dueled the fourth-ranked Strykers and Tan Holdings held its ground anew with a 5-5 draw. Perez made a hat-trick in their second game, while Mafnas canned in two goals. Though the same two players led Tan Holdings anew, it was the defense of Galarion that helped Tan Holdings spoil the Strykers, as the goalie saved to penalty kicks.

Galarion and company returned to the artificial turf on



Tan Holdings FC's Mareko Tekopua kicks the ball as a Wings defender stays close to him during a game in the 2014 Marianas U18 Invitational Tournament at the Guam Football Association's training facility this month.

See TAN on Page 26